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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The gravity of the outbreaks in Ireland was not fully realised in the House of Commons until the Prime Minister had made his statement on Thursday afternoon. He had to announce that the insurrection had spread to other parts of the country, especially in the West. Fighting in the streets of Dublin had not then ceased, and some important public buildings were held by the rebels. But the Government, responding at once with firmness to the needs of the situation, had ordered that martial law should be proclaimed at once over the whole of Ireland, and General Sir John Maxwell had been sent to Dublin with plenary powers under martial law. The Irish Executive had placed themselves at his disposal to carry out his instructions. Further, the Government had undertaken to make, and were making, a complete investigation into the whole of the causes and responsibility.

Sir Edward Carson is satisfied with the Prime Minister's statement, and says: "I will willingly join with Mr. Redmond in everything that can be done to denounce and put down these rebels now and for evermore." Mr. Redmond joins most cordially with Sir E. Carson in hoping that no set of newspapers or public men in this country will attempt to use what has happened in Ireland as a political weapon against any party that may exist. And he gives expression, on behalf of all his colleagues of the Nationalist Party, and also, as he believes, of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people, to the feeling of detestation and horror with which we have all regarded the Sinn Fein conspiracy.

The Dublin disturbances broke out at noon on Tuesday the 25th. A body of armed men occupied St. Stephen's Green, seized the Post Office, and cut the telephone and telegraph wires. Soldiers were ordered in from the Curragh, and on the first day seventeen loyalists were killed. Mr. Birrell, in the House on Wednesday, after saying that the situation was "well

in hand", admitted that four or five parts of the city were held by the "rebels".

Meantime, in the House of Lords, Lord Midleton severely criticised the policy of the Irish Executive in not dealing more firmly with the Sinn Fein organisation. This organisation has long been openly disloyal and hostile to the British Army. It has been allowed openly to arm and to conspire. Lord Lansdowne, answering for the Government, admitted the grounds for anxiety which had long existed, but he had also to plead that a trouble long expected and anxiously watched found the Irish Executive quite unprepared. The authorities in Dublin were taken by surprise.

The connection between the landing of Sir Roger Casement in the West of Ireland and the armed outbreak some four days later of the Sinn Fein organisation in Dublin is as yet obscure; but we may safely assume that the two events are not wholly unrelated. Sir Roger Casement landed in a collapsible boat from a German submarine. Accompanying the submarine was a German vessel disguised as a Dutch trader. The trader was stopped by a British ship and ordered into Queenstown. On the way into port this disguised vessel suddenly flew the German flag and scuttled herself. These events happened between the 20 and 21 April.

The new Service Bill—so deeply considered, so carefully devised to please all parties and groups—was killed stone-dead in the House of Commons on Thursday. The Bill was not even introduced. The Prime Minister saw the sense of the House was entirely against the Bill; so Mr. Walter Long, having first asked leave to bring it in, finally asked leave to take it out. In the whole course of the debate not one serious word was said in its favour. Mr. Long's introductory pleading was wholly apologetic. More especially it was clear that the compelling of time-expired soldiers back into the trenches was repugnant to his chivalry and

sense of fair play. The Bill received its mortal thrust in this particular clause, a clause which might well seem to have been expressly designed to illustrate the inequity of the whole measure. Sir Edward Carson led the attack upon the Bill in the House—an attack supported by Mr. Ellis Griffith and Mr. Walsh.

The dropping of the Service Bill does not, of course, mean that the military authorities will be disappointed in their demand for a fixed number of men by a fixed date. The Bill has been dropped in order that the Government may bring in a complete and general settlement of the whole recruiting question. We may hope, moreover, that this settlement, now that the temper of the House of Commons has been so clearly shown, will be reached without any serious difficulty arising in the Cabinet. "The crisis is all right", Mr. Asquith has assured Mr. Griffith. The sole difficulty now would seem to be the attitude of the section of Labour men for whom Mr. J. H. Thomas is speaking. The dead Bill was virtually their Bill. Patriotically, we can see only one possible course for Mr. Henderson to take. The compromise was put upon its trial on Thursday and condemned. The way should now be clear for a straight, clear, direct measure of equitable compulsion.

The official reports of the secret session have been extremely brief, taking up only those points which directly defined the Government's recruiting plan. This plan—the plan which was killed in the House on Thursday—began with four "minor proposals". These were (1) the prolongation until the end of the war of time-expired men; (2) the transference of Territorial battalions to any unit where they were needed; (3) the rendering of an exempted man liable to service immediately on the expiry of his certificate; (4) the enlistment of all youths as soon as they reached 18 years of age. Then followed the main plan of the Government. This provided for another "voluntary" campaign amongst the unattested married men, with the proviso that as soon as the required minimum failed to be reached in any given period compulsion should be resorted to.

A considered plan for relieving soldiers of their civil liabilities has been put into shape. The plan is retrospective and applies to all soldiers alike, married or single. The relief will have to be applied for in a prescribed form, and the applications will be investigated locally by barristers. Relief, up to £104 per annum, will apply to rent, mortgage interest, rates, taxes, insurance premiums, school fees, and instalment charges of various kinds. The relief will be administered by a special committee, consisting of Mr. Hayes Fisher, the Solicitor-General, the Lord Advocate, Sir Paul Hervey, and Mr. A. V. Symonds.

The procedure adopted for the secret session was simple enough. Mr. Asquith called Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that strangers were present, and the question was put to clear the House. In the House of Lords Lord Crewe moved that the sitting should be secret, and the motion was agreed to, subject to Lord Salisbury's constitutional protest. This protest had to do with the previous action of the Lord Great Chamberlain in taking measures for ensuring secrecy of debate before the House itself had approved the step. Each House is entire master of its own procedure and privilege, and though conditions have changed since the minutest privilege of either House might be an essential and practical point of the Constitution, it is wholly right that the tradition should be most scrupulously observed.

The secret session has given the Government an opportunity of defining what secrecy really is. Cabinet meetings are constitutionally secret; but the secrecy desired by the Government for its secret session was of rather a more inviolable kind than Cabinet secrecy has tended to be of late. A secret conference,

says the new regulation (27A) added to the Defence of the Realm Act, implies that persons and newspapers must not print or publish descriptions or reports of what takes place; and this applies equally to a secret session of the House of Commons and to the meetings of the Cabinet.

Certainly it was time that the blinking and button-holing whereby Cabinet secrets—or, more often, garbled versions of Cabinet secrets—tended to become everybody's property almost as soon as the Cabinet had separated were decisively checked. The new regulations may be regarded as a tardy admission that confidences such as Mr. Percy Alden lately claimed to have received from a Cabinet Minister concerning his colleagues are in the highest degree improper. The scandal has not in any way abated since public attention was drawn to the matter by Mr. Alden's disclosures. On the contrary, more than one newspaper has quite lately behaved as though it were privileged to have a reporter present at Cabinet meetings.

Further official details of the fighting on the right bank of the Tigris during 16 and 17 April (before the Turkish counter-attacks) show that the enemy left more than 200 dead in the captured trenches. Two field guns were captured, five machine-guns, and 180 prisoners. After the enemy's counter-attack on the night of 17-18 April our aeroplanes made a reconnaissance, and observed that many Turkish ambulances were busy all day removing the wounded. Later evidence proves that 10,000 men were employed in the counter-attack. They came on in dense formations and penetrated a part of our front. Within 500 yards of a British brigade from 1,200 to 1,500 dead Turks were counted, and before other portions of our lines the dead lay thick. The killed alone were estimated at more than 3,000. Our own casualties—killed, wounded, and missing—were very considerably less than the number of Turkish dead.

On 23 April General Lake reported that an attack had just been made on the Sanna-i-Yat position after a searching bombardment. Owing to floods only one brigade could advance, and its front was very contracted. The leading troops of this brigade were a British composite battalion; they went forward with great gallantry, passing through a bog and over submerged trenches, and penetrating the first and second lines of the Turkish defence. A few men got into the third line. But the brigade was unable to throw back the enemy's counter-attacks, and other brigades, pushed up on the right and left to reinforce, failed to reach their objectives across flooded and boggy ground swept by heavy machine-gun fire. Across the river also our troops were unable to make much progress.

Next day there was no important development. On the right bank we still held the line running south-east from Beit Eissa, and during the morning this line was carried southward by a successful movement against the enemy's advanced pickets. On the left bank we still held the old line facing the Sanna-i-Yat position. Since 5 April, when the relieving force began the present offensive from Umon-el-Hannah, our troops on the northern bank have advanced seven or eight miles, and on the southern bank about ten miles. Rather less than half the ground has been covered, and the force has not yet reached the main Turkish position astride the river at Es Sinn.

On 19 April Field-Marshal von der Goltz died at the Headquarters of his Turkish Army. The official German report says that he died of spotted fever, while rumours from Turkey speak of assassination. It is said that Mackensen has gone to the front in Armenia to lead the Turks against the Grand Duke.

On the night of 19 April the Germans, after a heavy bombardment, attacked our line around Ypres at four points—St. Eloi, the Bluff, Wieltje, and on the Ypres-

Langemarck road. They penetrated our lines, but were soon thrown back from all points except from two craters at St. Eloi and a trench on the Ypres-Langemarck road. Two days later this trench was recaptured by the Shropshire Light Infantry. On the 22nd, at night, our troops made a successful raid against enemy trenches south-west of Thiepval (north of Albert).

On Wednesday night many attacks were made on our lines after a vigorous artillery preparation, but the enemy failed to keep a foothold in our trenches. The fighting was very brisk, and perhaps it denotes the beginning of a new offensive. Two gas attacks were pushed home by the Germans near Hulluch and Loos, but in half an hour a fierce counter-move by our Irish troops won a fine success at Loos, and at Hulluch the situation was soon restored.

A review of events at Verdun since 19 April is a mere chronicle of minor events in a huge battle that goes on from week to week. After two months of continuous fighting the Germans have failed to get within striking distance of the French main lines, and the French defence grows sterner and stronger. We note particularly that the Mort Homme sector has gained vigour, and that the Germans have won no advantage in the sectors of Avocourt and Hill 304. Indeed, the French have advanced a little here and there, as in the Caurettes Wood. East of the Meuse there is no change to be noted.

A detachment of Russia's best troops arrived at Marseilles on 20 April, and already their presence in France has given a heartening new significance to the Franco-Russian Alliance. The Russian soldiers are picked men who have won medals in the war, and their officers are men of note.

On 23 April there was fighting in the Katia oasis, in the Sinai Peninsula. Katia lies about thirty miles from the Suez Canal, and about ten days ago it was occupied by a small force of British Yeomanry. The enemy attacked with a column of 3,000 men, supported by three field guns. After a tough fight our men withdrew from the village of Katia. Another of our advanced posts—Duweidar, fifteen miles from the Canal—was assailed on the same day, but without effect. The enemy was harassed during his retreat by a column of Australian troops, who acted in concert with bomb-dropping aeroplanes.

The Admiralty announced yesterday that the Flagship "Russell" was mined and sunk in the Mediterranean on Thursday. Admiral Fremantle and Captain Bowden Smith were among the saved; but 124 officers and men are missing. Better news was announced in a later paragraph of the official report. A German submarine was sunk the same day off the East Coast, seventeen men of the crew being made prisoners.

About 4.10 on Tuesday morning the German Battle Cruiser Squadron, accompanied by light cruisers and destroyers, appeared off Lowestoft and Yarmouth, and bombarded these towns for about half an hour. At Great Yarmouth one large building was seriously damaged by fire, and another building was hit by shells. At Lowestoft about 200 dwelling houses were slightly damaged, and forty were badly hit. The pier was breached, and extensive harm was done to a swimming bath and a convalescent home. Three persons were seriously injured, nine were slightly wounded, and four were killed. The local naval forces engaged the enemy, and four light cruisers and about half a dozen destroyers chased the big German ships. Two of our cruisers and a destroyer were hit, but none was sunk.

On Monday night several Zeppelins made an attack on the Eastern Counties, dropping about 100 bombs. They destroyed a haystack, killed a horse, and shattered some windows. Only one person was wounded.

On Tuesday night hostile airships raided Essex and Kent. They were met by a brisk fire from the anti-aircraft guns and made a rapid retreat after scattering many bombs. On Wednesday evening Kent was visited again, but a mist sent the Zeppelins home before midnight. These raids have done no harm, thanks to the fact that our awakened defence compels the airships to fly at a very high altitude. Will the Germans take the risk of an attack by daylight?

President Wilson's address to the House of Congress in Joint Session has not been too wisely treated by one or two English writers. Germany has been summoned to give up the barbaric warfare waged by her submarines against merchant vessels and liners; unless she abandons this warfare at once the United States will cease to have diplomatic relations with her. No one has any right to suppose that the severing of diplomatic relations means the declaration of war, and we decline to make comments on the President's policy and its prospects. The less we write in England on this crisis the less likely we are to advance the aims of German agents in America. President Wilson should be free from all interference from outsiders.

The Foreign Office has issued for publication a long and very important Memorandum to the United States Government in reply to the American Note of 5 November 1915. It upholds our sea rights with the necessary firmness, and assures all neutrals that His Majesty's Government will continue their efforts to make the exercise of these rights as little burdensome as possible. Already they have appointed an impartial and influential commission to examine whether any further steps can be taken to shorten the delays that attend the present methods of dealing with neutral vessels. And it has been suggested that it would be a great commercial convenience if neutral shippers knew, before they made arrangements for ship-space and for financing their consignments, whether they would be held up by belligerent patrols. A scheme is already in operation which ought to succeed in accomplishing this object. The Allied Governments will give favourable consideration to any proposal for the alleviation of the position of neutrals, provided that the substantial effectiveness of the measures now in force against enemy commerce would not be thereby impaired.

A very interesting part of this Memorandum is a report by Admiral Jellicoe, who points out that the great size of to-day's vessels is a factor that renders search at sea far more difficult than in the days of smaller vessels. "This difficulty is much enhanced by the practice of concealing contraband in bales of hay and passengers' luggage, in casks, etc.; and this procedure, which has been carried out, necessitates the actual removal of a good deal of cargo for examination in suspected cases. This removal cannot be carried out at sea, except in the very finest weather." Then there is "the German practice of misusing United States passports in order to procure a safe conduct for military persons and agents of enemy nationality". All suspect persons must be examined closely, and this cannot be done at sea.

Lord Hardinge arrived in London last Saturday after five-and-a-half years of arduous and constant work, years which have included the King's visit to India, an attempted assassination, and the outbreak of the war. Lord Hardinge's work in India during the last two years can be judged, at a distance, by its results alone. He leaves India quiet and united, despite the many difficulties with which the war has confronted him. In dealing with sedition—for India has had its Sinn Fein agitation, which might have had graver results than the agitation in Ireland—Lord Hardinge has united firmness with clemency. His work during the first year of the war, in assuring the tranquillity and security of India at a time when many new strains and influences were working, will rank high in the records of Indian administration.

LEADING ARTICLES.

THE COALITION AND THE DEAD BILL.

WHEN the Service Bill, the careful product of a crisis and a secret session, dropped dead on the floor of the House on Thursday evening, the patriotic men who had helped to kill it had two immediate emotions. The first was an unqualified satisfaction that the Bill was dead. The second was an apprehension that the dropping of the Bill by the Government might imply a return to the crisis of last week, with all the old delays, disputes, aggravated and multiplied. Mr. Ellis Griffith put this last anxiety to the Prime Minister, who answered at once: "The crisis is all right". This relieves us, for the time being, of any need to temper our satisfaction over the demise of a measure which even its sponsor, in every line of his speech, admitted to be very far from satisfactory. A minister has rarely been placed in a more distasteful position than that of Mr. Walter Long on Thursday, pleading, against the chivalry of his nature, for the compulsion of the time-expired men. This was the worst point of the Bill, but it was typical of all those "minor measures" whereby the House was invited to judge the merits of the Bill. The Bill was dropped owing to the sense of the House that the new Service Act, when it comes, must, in Mr. Asquith's words, "be part and parcel of a general settlement of the recruiting question".

It was pointed out in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 25 March last that the recruiting difficulty was likely very soon to put the Government in the gravest danger. The Military Service Act (No. 1) was the great political stroke of the war—a stroke which justified the Coalition. But the Military Service Act (No. 1), being incomplete and resting on an irrational distinction between the duty to his country of a single man and the duty of a married man, was clearly marked out as a first instalment only of national service. It could only be a question of time before the needs of the Army alone would require an extension of the Act, and this extension would somehow have to be made agreeable to those in the Cabinet and outside it who intensely disliked the Military Service Act (No. 1) and were pledged to resist anything in the nature of a Military Service Act (No. 2). Unhappily, this extension of national service, so clearly inevitable and so indisputably fair and right, came to be mixed up with a twofold agitation. First there were the outright enemies of national service, who seized on the defects and anomalies of the Act, not with any idea of improving it, but with the express design of wrecking it. Next there were the outright enemies of the Government, who seized on the defects and anomalies of the Act as much with the idea of making difficulties for the Coalition as of satisfying the needs of the Army. Between these two parties it has been extremely difficult for those who considered, solely and simply, the merits of the Military Service Act (No. 1) and the best time and manner of its extension to intervene at all usefully.

On the whole it seemed better to get the confusion concerning the administration of the Military Service Act (No. 1) smoothed well out of the way before proceeding to extend it. The Military Service Act (No. 1) was, for the time being, sufficient. It admitted the principle of national service. It is true that it had come to be mixed up with many other considerations—chief of which was the exact nature and scope of the "pledge" made by the Prime Minister and Lord Derby. But none of these considerations could obscure the fact that the Government, in an Act of Parliament, had insisted that a certain section of the nation should accept the first elementary duty of a young man of military age in time of war. The principle was there; and all those advocates of national service who had patiently pleaded their case without ceasing for some eighteen months could well afford to wait the extra few weeks required for re-

solving the confusions and clamours which had risen over the administration of the Act. Let the Military Service Act (No. 1) be got well under way. Let it get itself established and proof against intrigue. More especially, let the thorough combing out of the single men from their quiet billets in exempted occupations advance far enough to establish the entire good faith of Lord Derby and the Prime Minister. The extending and improving of the Act could then more safely be entered upon, in response to representations from the military authorities.

This course of action would no doubt have been followed as the most convenient and most secure of its object, had it not been for a rather more urgent military need than was allowed for by the Military Service Act (No. 1). As the Prime Minister is officially reported to have said in the Secret Session: "The results obtained up to date had fallen short of the requirements which are necessary to fulfil our proper military effort". This, the Prime Minister explained, is due to the time required for combing out the men for military service under the Act. It seems that these delays have so seriously impaired the efficiency of the original Act that the military authorities require to be assured at once of an additional and regular supply of 200,000 men at the rate of 50,000 for the first month and 15,000 for the ensuing weeks till the toll is complete.

Thus the crisis has come earlier than it would have done had political considerations alone dictated to the Government its time and method of extending the principle of national service. But the crisis has come, as most well-informed observers expected it to come, as a result of a definite demand from the military advisers of the Government for an assured and regular supply of men over and above the men supplied under Lord Derby's attestation scheme and under the Military Service Act (No. 1).

The crisis has come, but it has not yet wholly passed. It has rudely tested the system of government by coalition; but the system of government by coalition is still in place and unbroken, though the *Lex ex machina* so painfully designed to save it has deservedly perished. The survival of the Government is, as matters stand to-day, a matter for some relief. The late crisis threatened the existence not merely of the present Coalition of twenty-three. It threatened the whole experiment of government by coalition. And such a threat could only be reasonably regarded as of no account by those who can clearly see an instant and practical alternative. Of any such an alternative we have not as yet had the smallest glimpse. It is one thing to deplore the weakness of the present Coalition in many grave matters, to criticise their measures, to suggest that more firmness of temper and directness of policy would strengthen and not destroy them, to doubt whether the Cabinet is not too large or whether it is ideally composed. But it is quite another thing to desire the break-up of government by coalition altogether; implying as this does (1) a leap back to party government with the possibility of a General Election; or (2) a leap forward into an unknown revolution. Such an event, if it ever became inevitable, if it should ever present itself as the best of an utterly bad business, would very gravely disturb our Allies, and would be regarded by responsible observers at home as a very desperate remedy indeed.

We may therefore feel relieved that the Coalition stands. That it will stand indefinitely in its present exact form and personality is not at all certain; but this is not the important matter. The important matter is that the idea of a Coalition Government has survived the severest crisis to which it has been subjected. That is one main result of the events of the last ten days. The other main result is equally important. The needs of the Army will be met.

The temper of the House of Commons on Thursday has made that certain and sure. Mr. Long's new Service Bill, for which he had continually to apologise, has been dropped as an ignoble half-measure. Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Ellis Griffith, and Mr. Stephen Walsh, with Members of all shades and degrees in

politics, agreed that it would not do. We may now reasonably expect that, having agreed to an extension of the Military Service Act as soon as it is needed—having agreed to a further application of the principle that men of military age shall be compelled to serve when required—the Government as a whole will now at once turn finally away from all the shifts and shams and expedients whereby the straight, clear obligation of the manhood of the country has been hitherto obscured. We believe that the Government, having proved the necessity of an extra 200,000 men, may safely ask the House to take those men by a fair and general law.

THE SINN FEIN CONSPIRACY.

THE news from Ireland is grave, and may possibly be graver yet. The Government has clearly been taken by surprise; and it was some time, even after the first outbreaks had occurred, before their full importance was realised by the House of Commons. Very little attention was given to the matter on Tuesday. On Thursday, however, the position was better known. Mr. Asquith announced that the movement was spreading in the west, that all Ireland had been put under martial law, that General Sir John Maxwell had been appointed with plenary powers to deal with the situation, that a searching investigation would be made into the causes and responsibility of the risings. These announcements were made in quite a different tone from earlier statements that the position was "well in hand" and that the outbreak was "futile". No one imagines that the Sinn Fein conspiracy is going to affect the progress of the war at all seriously. German instigators will not easily persuade neutral observers that here, in any sense, is an "Irish rebellion". But there is a clear need, a need which the Government has recognised and acted upon promptly and with decision, to get this conspiracy swiftly and effectively under. There is only one instinctive and loyal impulse in this matter: to strengthen the hands of the Government by every possible means, to dissociate the Sinn Fein conspiracy utterly from every party whatsoever, to let it quite clearly appear that there is no connection between the risings in Ireland and any political group or question on which members of the House of Commons and the Cabinet have in the past been divided. Mr. Redmond and Sir Edward Carson, in the House on Thursday, combined to express the detestation and horror with which the overwhelming majority of Irishmen viewed the Sinn Fein conspiracy. But events are more striking than assurances, however sincere and well expressed. The Sinn Fein conspiracy falls into its true place and proportion when we learn that the Nationalist Volunteers marched from Drogheda to assist in repressing the outbreak.

As yet there is every sign that the public at home and our Allies abroad are taking a correct and reasonable view of this conspiracy. This Irish affair has been treated for what it is; it has been treated, that is to say, as a diversion. Diversion might well seem too light a word by which to describe a rebellious, pro-German movement in the Irish capital—a movement which began with a partial seizure of the city, is continuing in bloodshed, and which will very probably spread further yet. But it none the less truly describes the purpose and nature of this catastrophe. The purpose of all such movements, in the eyes of their German instigators, is to divert the attention of the British public from the main strength and design of the enemy. The German plan is to wage war in the main theatres with the intensest concentration and, at the same time, to scatter the brains and energies of the enemies of Germany in every possible direction. This last week they have been very busily employed in encouraging our dissipation. The raid on Lowestoft, the sudden clatter of insurrection in Dublin, and the Zeppelin visits to the eastern counties all serve to call

our minds away from the fact that Germany can only be met decisively where her armies are mustered.

The German contrivers of this Irish plot have in some respects been disappointed. In the first place, the vigilance of the British Fleet intercepted the German part of their design. Casement's plans went down with a German transport scuttled off the Irish coast, and the Irish movement was left to look after itself. Moreover, the British public behaved with a tranquillity which must greatly have puzzled and surprised the Germans. Here was bloodshed in the streets of Dublin. But the public, in these grave circumstances, has kept remarkably cool. The whole thing has been treated as a minor matter in relation to the Great War.

This, at least, shows that we are beginning to get things into rather better perspective. This "conflagration" in Ireland is certainly not unimportant. It has required the most immediate and serious attention, and it will hereafter call for a strict reckoning from the weakest administration which has ever held office under any Government.

But it is not, like the question of keeping the British Fleet fully supplied with all it needs, and adding to it with every week that passes, or like the question of maintaining the British field armies up to strength, or like the question of dealing firmly with British labour—it is not, that is to say, a question on which our fighting strength as a belligerent hangs or falls. The Sinn Fein agitation is a domestic matter which, apart from the stern, swift suppression of an overt, insane rebellion in the Irish capital, will have to remain over—the social roots and fibres of it—until after the war. The necessary emergency measures must be adequate, but these can also be quite simple, and not such as to deflect seriously our attention from graver problems. What has happened in Ireland, or something not unlike it, has not been by any means unexpected by those who have watched the uneasy tolerance by the Irish Executive of the Irish disloyalists. Lord Midleton, in the House of Lords on Wednesday, spoke for a good many who have wondered how this tolerance would end.

Now is not the time to discuss any matters which are even remotely related to old political controversies. It is enough that, since war broke out, a seditious Press and agitators who openly spoke and acted against the British Army have been allowed to organise and arm themselves into a position of some strength, that the Executive has been taken by surprise, that a situation has now arisen which will give the German Government a wide scope for misrepresentation, and which will require strong and immediate action if it is to be got well and rapidly in hand. Every loyal party in Parliament desires to strengthen the Government in every way to deal with the Sinn Fein organisation root and branch.

THE GERMAN FLEET: AND BRITISH STRIKERS.

THE naval raid upon Lowestoft this week and the loss of the Flagship "Russell" with 124 men serve to remind us that the German Fleet is alive and near. That we are sometimes apt to forget that the German Fleet, above water as well as under water, is a really strong and formidable weapon, is only due to the supremacy, so far absolute, of the British Navy. It is difficult to say anything in the way of warning about the German Fleet without giving an impression that one is a scaremonger—believes something is gravely wrong at the Admiralty. The Admiralty is in sound keeping, and the British Fleet is led by men highly skilled, careful, and dauntless. We have no patience with scares and scaremongers—people who wake up with a start from a dream of super-Zeppelins bombing the Grand Fleet to destruction as it rides helplessly at anchor, or of "Hindenburgs" harrying the British coasts with the lately celebrated 17-inch gun. Nor did the sudden

squall over Lord Fisher, which came and went like a whirlwind, upset us—any more, we fancy, than it upset that gallant Admiral himself. Scares and squalls, accompanied by shrieks, do not help us on with the war. They had better be avoided. But it is another thing whether we ought altogether to put away thoughts from time to time about the growth and movements presently of the German Fleet. The letters by "Realist", Lord Dunraven and others, which have been printed from time to time in the SATURDAY REVIEW, seem to us quite to the point, and this view is certainly shared by some informed public men. The German Fleet, though in the early part of the war swept off the ocean and severely handled in several engagements, is still in being. We have seen this week that it exists, and we may believe it has grown in strength since the days of the battle off Heligoland and the sinking of von Spee's squadron. We had better assume it has grown not only in bulk but in cunning device too. Before the war closes the German Fleet will come out and risk a battle on a big scale. Probably it would have come out before now had the German armies fared very badly; but, so long as they have been able to drive their opponent in the East and to hold their own against him in the West, the German Fleet is scarcely likely to come out and risk a crushing defeat which would discourage both their soldiers and civilians. It is likelier that the German Fleet will come out and give battle when the pinch grows severe in Germany, or when its armies are doing badly.

The German Fleet has had all the worst of the war. It has been ignominiously swept off the ocean, and in several minor engagements it has been badly hammered; and its record is a craven one on the whole. So much is clear—equally clear to Allies, neutrals, and to the Germans themselves. It is not less clear that the British Fleet has done splendidly and successfully, except when it has been misused by non-naval minds, such as those that tossed away the "Majestic" and other ships in the Gallipoli gamble. We can trust absolutely its men and its great leader, Sir John Jellicoe. But not the less we ought always to bear in mind that the German Fleet exists, and certainly is increasing; and will one day, most probably, come out and engage in battle, backed up by its Zeppelin watchers and scouts and its submarines.

It must be insisted once again that the British Fleet has transcended all other questions which matter to Great Britain and the Empire; does and will transcend all. The question of the water and under the water is more vitally important to us all than the question of the air; though the SATURDAY REVIEW has constantly urged the need of an improved and co-ordinated air service.

The public and its leaders ought to keep an eye on all movements that are telling against the building and arming of our Fleet. There used to be a cry that we must not have national service or compulsion because it would starve our Fleet. That was a crafty story, invented by partisans; and we now know quite well that national service, by sorting out, by methodising our manhood, must tend always to have the contrary effect. It is haphazard recruiting which robs the Navy of the very men and the very workers it needs. But the movements that do work against our Fleet and its growth are the strike movements which we have had a taste of lately. The public does not know all there is to know about these villainous movements, which are very grave. Attempts have been made for a year and a half and more now to flatter these strikes out. We believe that the only effectual way is not to flatter, but to batter them out. In the early months of the war the country was largely at the mercy of treacherous strikers; but to-day things are wholly different—for the country is largely in arms. What every soldier should know by now is this: *Those who "down tools" in any department of naval work do so at the cost of the soldier. Downing naval tools in factories, workshops or docks is helping to put the British soldier—not a whit less than*

the British sailor—at the mercy of the Germans: for the British Army depends for its ammunition, its food, and its conveyance on the British Fleet. We all ought to be extremely vigilant in regard to strike movements where naval work is affected: because all such strikes or threatened strikes are work for the enemy against British soldiers and sailors. This truth has not yet been thoroughly driven home. The public and the two Services should be familiarised with it.

THE MEN FROM ANZAC.

A FOREIGNER described the Greater Jubilee of Queen Victoria as a pageant in devout patriotism. On that splendid day, when the Empire marched with her chosen men through London, a chivalry of armed youth attending the aged Queen-Empress, the crowd was a poet in feeling, and a difficult ceremony passed through pomp and triumph into devotion. Who can weigh and measure the permanent good done to the Empire by Queen Victoria's Greater Jubilee? A creed is nothing until it builds a fane for itself, and the creed of Imperialism had no august presence in a fane of visible certainty until the Jubilees of Queen Victoria made it real as a bond of union at millions of local celebrations. Then it was that the Empire became conscious of her unity in the world's affairs. Leaders everywhere perceived distinctly for the first time that the Empire, like a masterpiece of art, must be preserved as a whole. At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign the Empire was a far-scattered vagueness that utilitarians treated with contempt; during the last months of her life the promise of the Greater Jubilee was active in brave deeds done in battle. Since then there has been a free and natural growth in those reciprocal interests that enable an Empire gradually to bring her collective force to bear upon the same problems. Hence it was inevitable that the British Empire, when threatened in war by Germany, should turn her unity into army corps. There are persons who talk as if this natural act were almost supernatural; but those who value the past in the present, as all true Conservatives ought to value it, know that the Jubilees of Queen Victoria foretold the militant loyalty of India and the soldierly good fellowship of all the Dominions. And this week, on Anzac Day, the spirit of the Greater Jubilee returned to London. Once more the crowd was a poet in feeling, and a public ceremony became an act of devotion.

Other aspects of Anzac Day stir the imagination. A wounded New Zealander, after the service in the Abbey, related how the troops turned their eyes towards the altar when the first notes of the National Anthem were heard: "They saw there the simple khaki-clad figure of the only man in our Empire who does not stand when the Anthem is sung. And they wondered what he thought. Surely he saw, as they did, that every man in whose company he worshipped would lay down his life to uphold his sovereignty. The service closed with a quiet almost uncanny, and then the silver-throated trumpets rang out the soldier's saddest notes—the 'Last Post'. I do not know who wrote that call, but, whoever it was, he put into it all the pathos, all the hope of resurrection, and all the triumph that man knows. It ended, and for a while longer there was silence". Could any words show more clearly that the spirit of Anzac Day was—and should remain—not a festival for the living, but a commemoration of the dead? Thackeray used to complain—and Gardiner after him, in a noble passage of history—that the rank and file who died in war were forgotten at once; that their names were never recorded, even on monuments. The public has changed greatly during the present war; it is far more grateful than it has ever been to its soldiers and sailors; it is learning to appreciate discipline and self-sacrifice. But the spirit of Anzac Day has to be extended to all the brave men who have passed from life into the undying traditions of their regiments. Every British county should commemorate the deeds of its troops once a year.

We will not emphasise the heroic note, because brave soldiers do not like it. Sir William Birdwood set a very useful example in his brief speech. He told his men always to pay attention to training and discipline, these qualifications being quite as important as fighting determination. When civilians give way to heroics they exercise their gratitude and make soldiers feel uneasy, for true valour is shy in the presence of praise. Besides, Englishmen knew that the Australasian troops would be magnificent and would turn courage into a national heirloom.

The speech of Mr. Hughes, as a whole, was great in statesmanship. "Not contempt of death in even its most awful forms", he said, "nor dash, nor resource, not all these things would have sufficed the men of Anzac had the divine spirit of self-sacrifice been absent. . . . It is upon this foundation of self-sacrifice that true patriotism rests. Who shall say that this dreadful war is wholly an evil?" The noble demeanour of London on Tuesday is a proof that the better qualities of our race are being renewed. And it is heartening to remember also that the New Zealand troops, by placing before the altar a wreath in memory of the 29th Division, united many dead British comrades to the homage they paid to their own fallen.

THE SERVICE MEMBERS.

WHEN Mr. Asquith announced on Wednesday of last week that nothing would be said in Parliament on the recruiting question until the following Tuesday, the Service members of the House of Commons were many of them faced by their old dilemma of a divided allegiance in a rather serious form. The Service member has always had to reconcile two duties which are at times incompatible. As a sailor or soldier he looks only to his commanding officer. But as an elected member of the House he has to look to his constituents and to Parliament. In regard to the recent secret session this double personality was extremely awkward for many of the Service members. Those who had come from the front, as in political duty they were bound to do, in order to assist in a decision which affected the conduct of the war—a decision which particularly affected the Army—had obtained a leave which took no account of a five days' postponement. They had to decide whether to stay or to go. Naturally the whole question has thereby arisen more clearly than ever before as to the position—constitutionally and morally—of the Service members. Which has the superior claim to their service—the House of Commons or the Services?

It is, so long as we agree that the House of Commons is to count in our affairs, an extremely important question. That it has not more often arisen is due to the tact with which applications for leave have been asked and granted by the members and their Commanding Officers. The question, indeed, has been evaded rather than faced. Now, however, that the events of the last few days have brought it up it may be well to ask whether the absence of some 130 to 140 members of the House of Commons—of members, too, who are more in touch with matters relating to the war than the majority of those who fill the lobbies from day to day—does not rather seriously detract from the usefulness and the status of the House. Sir Arthur Markham and Commander Bellairs tried on Tuesday to obtain an opinion from the Prime Minister as to whether the first duty of an M.P. lay to the House; and the constitutional point was raised as to whether they could be hindered, if they so wished, from fulfilling that duty by any authority outside the House.

Mr. Asquith clearly has prejudices of his own in the matter, which, so far as the House of Commons is concerned, would seem to be not altogether inaccurately rendered as: The fewer the better. Mr. Asquith tells us "he is unaware that members of this House who are serving in His Majesty's Forces possess any constitutional right to leave their military duties with-

out the permission of the military authority". Now the "Manual of Military Law"—which is hardly an authority to be suspected of softening the rigours of military discipline—lays down that an officer or soldier if himself elected is entitled without leave or order to attend the House of Commons; and "Clode", which is not in any sense an "anti-militarist" compilation, declares that, as a member, the officer or soldier needs no leave or licence from the Crown to quit his regiment for attendance upon Parliament. Whatever personal view the Service member may take of his duties, the constitutional view as to his case, plainly enough, is that his duty to Parliament must not be ignored either by himself or by his superior officer.

This is wholly in keeping with the British temper. This question is curiously inverted by the parties at Westminster just now. Those who least ardently desire to have the Service members too often in voice and presence are secretly moved by an absurd, unreasonable jealousy of what they still vaguely describe as "militarism". But surely the constitutional law, which, with all due respect to Mr. Asquith, insists on the right of Service members to attend the House whenever they desire, is itself the logical consequence of a constitutional wish to keep the Army out of politics and political decisions. There can be no "militarism" in insisting that members of the House shall not be hindered from being in the House. There might, on the contrary, quite conceivably be "militarism" (we use the term for what it is worth in the mouths of a sect which hates a uniform and would fall into a panic if it saw a Service member frowning at the Mace) if it were in the power of the military authorities to forbid members of Parliament from attending the House. In this case the Army might conceivably (though no such thing is in the least likely) influence the political decisions of the supreme legislative body by forcibly withholding a section of its voters and speakers.

But here is no question of militarism or anti-militarism. It is a question as to how best the Service members can serve their country at this time. There is no doubt at all that their advice is often greatly missed at Westminster. The House of Commons would be more efficient, steadier, more in touch with the realities of the war if the Service members were more often in attendance. Frankly, we believe that some of them would do well to consider more seriously the duty they owe to the House and to their constituents. Their political services are needed to keep Parliament in personal, direct touch with the matters in which they have been studying and practising for the last eighteen months. The country cannot afford to spare them continually from the House of Commons.

THE GREAT WAR.

APPRECIATION (No. 91) BY VIEILLE MOUSTACHE.

THE ASIA MINOR THEATRE.

THERE are few British soldiers of the old school who will hesitate to pay a passing tribute to the memory of a great Prussian soldier who, in his declining years, has found his grave among our enemies in the Eastern sphere of operations. Field-Marshal Baron von der Goltz Pasha, whose death has been reported at the Headquarters of his command in Asia Minor, was perhaps better known to the student of the art of war as a writer of distinction on military subjects than as a leader of men, although in his last days his prowess in that particular has given to us good cause for just respect. It is to his pen that we owe the graphic story of Gravelotte and Metz, the narrative of that great struggle that first bent the power of France in 1870, and which culminated in the *débâcle* and the surrender of the last of her field armies. In the subsequent stiff fight put up by France and her hastily-raised levies in 1871, after the downfall of the Empire, von der Goltz realised by experience how great is the

power of a national spirit if trained leaders are forthcoming. He saw that Prussia, with her military system, in the hands of a brave warrior caste who made the study of arms their profession, could afford to lessen the burden imposed upon the manhood of the nation, and did not hesitate in his work, "Léon Gambetta and his Armies", to advocate the reduction of the terms of service in the German armies from three years to two. Such a drastic proposition found little favour with an ultra-conservative German War Department, but considerations subsequently necessitated the adoption of this principle, which came into force in the early 'nineties. Other works of military importance brought renown to the historian, but the fame of von der Goltz as a writer will endure to the end as the author of that classic, "The Nation in Arms", a military treatise second in importance only to the great work of Clausewitz, "On War". It is not an exaggeration to state that had the study of this volume of von der Goltz been a theme for the consideration and education of both our statesmen and our soldiers for the past fifteen years we should have been saved the dire penalty which wilful unpreparedness has brought upon the nation. We have reason to regret the demise of an opponent whose code of chivalry apparently savoured much of that of the old school; and students of war of every nationality will raise a hand in salute to a departed warrior-writer.

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The capture of Trebizond by a combined naval and military operation will have a moral effect which will react far and wide. It not only marks a step forward towards the severing from the Ottoman Empire of a rich province, but it indicates a line of combined strategy, which, if pursued to a positive end, may cause a collapse of the whole structure. Trebizond, as the maritime base for the supply of the Turkish armies in Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Persia, had an immense strategic importance. To be able to convert a hostile sea base into one for your own purpose counts two on a division. Sea power will now enable our Ally to use the port as a subsidiary base for any further military operations that he may meditate inland. We can see before us a design of campaign which is the reward of genius. In the march of the Russian armies westward from Erzerum we shall look for corresponding movements of a flanking force moving along the coast line, capturing in succession the harbours that tap the trade of the rich valleys that lie south of the Pontic Alps which fringe the southern shores of the Black Sea. What a history have those ports that lead to old trade routes! Trebizond, the most favoured by nature, was a city, prosperous even in the days when it saw and welcomed the 10,000 when they came over the mountains behind it from Cunaxa. Greek, Roman, and Byzantine have come by turn, and the flag of St. George of our Ally now waves over its old castle. The next objective of this coast army and its accompanying navy will be Kerasund, a small port, but with roads leading to Karahissar and thence to Erzingan, of which we have heard much. Farther west is the small harbour of Ordu, which taps again an inland route. Ordu is the port where tradition says that the brave 10,000 embarked for Byzantium after their long wanderings. She is also credited with having the largest Protestant Greek community in the world. As the march of the coast army progresses to the west the mountain ranges on their south decrease in elevation. At Samsoun they will find a wider and more fertile country and the port whence the great artery known as the Baghdad road goes winding across mountain, valley, and plain for 900 miles to the city of Harun-al-Raschid. The military importance of Samsoun lies in the fact that its possession by our Ally will deny to his enemy the chief source of supply of coal and charcoal for Constantinople, and it will facilitate concentration for the forces necessary to accumulate at Sivas for the further march to Angora.

We see in the operations above adumbrated a practical illustration of the value of sea power as an

adjunct in combined operations. What would Napoleon not have given to be rid of Nelson in his Italian campaigns? Forbidden by the guns of the Little Admiral to march his armies along the easy route of the Corniche, the Great General was condemned to wrestle with the Alps. The Grand Duke, in his westward progress from Erzerum, will be not only freed from anxiety about his right flank, but will gain in strength at each step as he reaches the crossroads that traverse the routes leading to the sea.

We have heard little of the prospects of a co-ordinate strategy which will not only take pressure off the front of the columns of our Ally, but will hasten the downfall of the Ottoman Power. We have been hoping for large things from forces concentrated for the protection of our route to the East. For the moment they seem to be somewhat sensitive to pin-pricks from the neighbouring desert. A surrender of initiative is hardly the way that leads to victory, and opportunity now stares us in the face to give the Young Turk the blow that will dispose of many old-time questions.

THE ARMY'S NEED: AND THE CITIZEN SOLDIER.

[COMMUNICATED TO THE "SATURDAY REVIEW."]

METHODS of compromise and of experiment are possibly those best suited to British traditions in time of peace. But they are terribly ineffective in time of war, when measures must be prompt, certain and drastic. It becomes daily more clear that if we want men at once, and are to get them without stirring up deep and wide-spread resentment, then we must extend the liability of military service and apply it to every able-bodied male of military age.

But when we have done this, when the State has enforced its claim to the services of the citizen, it devolves on the State to do everything in its power to mitigate the hardships of the individual citizen in the performance of his duty as a defender of the common weal.

This is the principle adopted in the free and democratic Republic of Switzerland. No Swiss citizen can escape from his liability for military service in defence of the State; no one can avoid personal service by providing a substitute, no one can commute his service by payment of a sum of money, no one can urge the plea of conscientious objection; all must obey the call. But, on the other hand, the whole of the social and economic structure of the little Republic is permeated with safeguards for the citizen soldier; the utmost care is taken to alleviate the hardships of the man who is called up to do his bit. As Professor Roget, of the University of Geneva, puts it: "The fact of liability to military service is expressed in or tacitly underlies every civil contract, liability or undertaking in Switzerland."

The Swiss citizen when called up for service becomes a highly privileged person. He cannot be sued at law; his real property, personal possessions, and money cannot be touched; no notice of ejectment may be served against him, no debt recovered, no contract cancelled for non-fulfilment, provided that the actual cause of failure to fulfil is his absence on military duty. The problem of house-rent is met in a simple way—each unit has a house-rent fund raised by private subscriptions. The fund is managed by captains of companies, who, owing to the fact that their men all belong to the same district as themselves, can administer the fund with knowledge as well as sympathy. As for insurance policies, these cannot lapse while the citizen is under arms—the military moratorium protects them; nor can payment of premium be pressed. Automatically, on the call to arms, the citizen is further protected, for he comes under the military insurance regulations.

"What is to become of our small private businesses if we leave them?" This is the common cry, and a very legitimate one, of the petty tradesman who is liable to be called out on a general mobilisation. Every

Swiss provides for this when he starts his business: he arranges for a substitute to carry it on. The substitute must belong to the "Landsturm non-armé" and cannot himself be called up.

If the man called out is tied by a partnership deed, the deed remains in force as against the other partner, while the soldier is relieved of responsibility for all that he leaves undone through his enforced absence. If he is a trustee, all his duties, responsibilities and labours are taken over by a public notary appointed for the purpose. If he has signed a long lease, the call to arms releases him from his share of the bargain, while the lessor cannot break the lease. Arrears of rent stand over, and may not be pressed as long as the lessee cannot be shown to have the means.

All these arrangements—fair, honest, kindly, and effective—are the result of long years of patient experiment and careful forethought; they have been worked out thoroughly in the piping times of peace. We are in the midst of a great struggle and time is very short indeed. "Light we have got on our lesson, but little time to learn." But there is no doubt that a careful study of Swiss methods will help us to a swift and effective method of meeting the urgent problem of the hour.

Above all, we must keep in mind the two leading assumptions which underlie the whole of the Swiss methods. Every sound male citizen of military age must come out as a soldier in time of national danger. The citizen made a soldier under compulsion, for the good of the State, must be protected by every legitimate means during his enforced absence from his work and from his home.

MIDDLE ARTICLES.

THE GERMAN GENERALS.—III.

BARON FIELD-MARSHAL VON DER GOLTZ.

By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ALFRED E. TURNER.

ONCE met Field-Marshal von der Goltz, whose death by spotted fever at the headquarters of one of the Turkish armies has been reported. He appeared to me to be a kind-hearted, genial being, very much satisfied with himself and "the best of all possible worlds", as far as Germany was concerned. He had the appearance of a deeply-thinking and very clever professor, and, as far as both war and diplomacy go, he was doubtless a professor of superlative talent. With the late Baron Marschall von Bieberstein he succeeded in bringing over Turkey heart and soul to the cause of Germany, a work of many years' patient and unremitting toil, carried out with supreme skill and dissimulation, aided by their histrionic Imperial master, who posed as a protector of the Mahometans and their faith, and styled himself the Envoy of Allah, although we know now that the august design was to extirpate Mahometanism whenever the German sway was strong enough. All this time von der Goltz and Marschall were working without intermission to destroy British influence in the Ottoman Empire, and to blot out all the gratitude due to Great Britain, whose statesmen, in their simplicity and ignorance of human nature, propped up the unspeakable Turk, and originated, fostered, and perpetuated friction with Russia, and always strove to humiliate her, to the infinite advantage of the sinister power which for generations was preparing to acquire world power and, above all, to destroy Great Britain. Now, fortunately, all this is changed, and we know how right Mr. Gladstone was in his judgment of the "unspeakable Turk", whose only virtues are his valour and fighting power, which have been utilised to the utmost by the able and astute von der Goltz, than whom no more eminent German soldier ever lived, with the exception of the great von Moltke.

Von der Goltz had the highest opinion of Lord Roberts, and contempt for those of his countrymen who belittled his efforts to call Great Britain to a sense of her duty; he felt the same for our politicians and party system, through whom we should certainly lose the

war were it not for our military and naval leaders and the splendid courage and endurance of our troops and seamen and, of course, our indomitable Allies.

The great Field-Marshal was no servile admirer of the Kaiser, or of his mad spectacular tactics, which, fortunately for the Allies and the world, are hastening the doom of Germany. He was a man beloved in private life and even in the army, in which, as a rule, superiors are feared and obeyed, but hated.

His military works are admirably written and composed, especially his *Kriegführung*, and, above all, his "Das Volk in Waffen", than which no better military work was ever written. In it he showed the absolute duty and the glory of every sound man to train as a soldier in order to defend his country. He, like Lord Roberts, never ceased urging this. The seed he sowed did not, like that of Lord Roberts, fall upon barren ground; whereas in this country the words and warnings of the great soldier were treated with indifference by the people because they were treated with studied contempt by politicians who occupied the seats of the mighty. Had the latter listened to Lord Roberts's warnings, the balance of power, which is so preached, might have been preserved, and Germany would not have entered into war, knowing that there was a real national army, prepared in peace time, to intervene, instead of a small Regular and not much larger Territorial Army, which the Kaiser and his surroundings considered to be contemptible and an altogether negligible quantity. As it was, not only were we totally unprepared for war, but our rulers have taken over twenty months to wake to the fact that has been patent not only to every experienced soldier, but to everyone possessing ordinary common sense and sense of proportion, that in order to fight "a nation in arms" successfully, other nations must adopt a system by which every sound man of military age is prepared to resist the danger to the land of his birth. The country can much easier forgive the Government for making no preparations to meet the storm because the wise and far-seeing were very few, and, generally, excessive optimism existed as to the unthinkableness of war with Germany; but what, however, is impossible to forgive is this conservative adherence to old, worn-out shibboleths, like Voluntary Service and Free Trade, which

"smell above the earth,
Like carrion men waiting for funeral".

Von der Goltz served with distinction on the General Staff in the war of 1870-71, and has ever since been a prominent figure in the German Empire. Best known, however, he was from the wonders he accomplished with the Turkish Army, by which he was revered and called the "Father of Turkey"; and it was against an army led by a soldier like this that our troops and their leaders were matched in the difficult enterprises of Gallipoli and Mesopotamia. It is said that he never for a moment believed in the possibility of an attack on Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula, and that this was an *idée fixe* which had germinated in the mad brain of the Kaiser. He is said also to have greatly feared for the fate of Constantinople and to have held, with Enver Pasha, that had the attack on Gallipoli by the Allies been made simultaneously by both Army and Navy, as a surprise, nothing could have saved the city of the Sultan. As it was, the Navy, by its premature bombardment, gave him full and ample warning to prepare to receive his enemy's army; after which, success by the latter was impossible.

Von der Goltz died a soldier's death, and we may well respect his memory, for no cruelties are laid to his charge; indeed, it is an open secret that the All-Highest and his swashbucklers were by no means satisfied with the leniency it was thought he displayed to the inhabitants of Brussels. Be this as it may, he was replaced by von Bissing, a man of much sterner type. It is stated, however, in the "Tyd" Amsterdam newspaper that when Monsignor Ruthen, Bishop of Liège, expressed to him his horror of the awful crimes and atrocities committed by the German soldiery on the un-

fortunate Belgian people, for which von der Goltz was in no way responsible, as they were part of the Kaiser's own system of frightfulness, and the Field-Marshal had not then arrived on the scene, the latter did not attempt to exculpate the Germans, but merely said: "Nous vaincre, monsieur, - et la gloire effacera tout"! This recalls to mind George Eliot's simile of the man whose smile was like the silver plate on a coffin, hiding the corruption that lay beneath.

Field-Marshal von der Goltz came of an old Prussian family, one member of which was ennobled and made a Marshal of France by Louis XIV. Another member of the family has given away, by his confession, the notorious von Papen, Captain Boy Ed, Count Bernstorff, and the German Government, and shown them to be dynamitards as wicked and as reckless of human life as the worst Anarchists on record.

SOCRATES AND THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR.

THIS also is recorded of Socrates: how that (the city being then grievously afflicted by war, and having made a law that all citizens of fit age should serve in the army, whether as actual fighters or otherwise) he one day met Phileleutherus, who was walking about not as a soldier but as in time of peace.

O Phileleutherus, said Socrates, are you then not going to join the army?

No, Socrates: I have a conscience which tells me that it would not be right for me to do so; and if they try to compel me to serve, whether as a fighting man or in some other way, I will give that as my reason.

What! Are you like my poor friend Deisidaimon, who also says that he will not be a soldier because it would be displeasing to the gods?

No, that is not my reason: I do not know anything about the gods or what they like or dislike.

What, then, is it that makes it wrong, as you say, for you to become a soldier?

It is this, Socrates: no one ought to take any part in war, because war is a bad thing and ought to be abolished.

So far I agree with you: war is not a good thing at all. But as neither you nor I can make war to cease, cannot a man, as they say, make the best of a bad business? Is it not just and praiseworthy to defend one's country when attacked? Or, at least, is it not right to serve in the army so as to help and heal the sick and wounded? These things surely are not bad, but good.

They are not, said Phileleutherus, bad in themselves: I agree; but they are bad because, in order to perform these duties, it is necessary to place oneself under the authority of soldiers and to obey them. And that is a thing, Socrates, which I will never do, because my conscience tells me that it is wrong.

Why is it wrong to obey soldiers? Is obedience bad in itself? Yet servants and schoolboys obey their masters; and we all, I suppose, obey the laws.

Obedience to soldiers, Socrates, is wrong, because soldiers carry on war.

Yet we agreed just now that many things which are parts of war are not bad in themselves. Did we not?

Yes.

War, then, is not in itself wholly bad. What makes it bad?

Why, the fact that it is carried on by soldiers.

It appears then, Phileleutherus, that while on the one hand soldiers are bad because they wage war, on the other hand war is bad because it is waged by soldiers. If that is the way in which you argue, I should recommend you to pay a small fee to some sophist who will teach you the art of reasoning.

Now, Socrates, you are becoming abusive, and I suppose you know that that is not the way to talk to persons holding opinions like mine: it is just that we should be treated with respect.

Very well, said Socrates; I am sorry if I spoke too strongly. We will change the subject for a moment

and talk of something else. Phileleutherus, when you say that you possess something, what do you mean?

Mean? Why, that it belongs to me, of course.

By what right? Why cannot someone, being stronger, take it from you?

Because the law prevents him from doing so.

Being stronger than the man who is stronger than you?

Yes.

The law then protects you by force: is not that so?

I suppose so.

When we say the law it is the same thing as if we said the State?

It is the same thing, no doubt.

Now, suppose the State were to say to you: O Phileleutherus and Deisidaimon and your friends, I have protected you by force for many years and made it possible for you to live in the midst of dangers safely. Now, then, that I am in danger, it is only just that you should protect me; but if you will not, it is no longer just that I should protect you:—It seems to me, Phileleutherus, that you will be in a very unhappy case; for your possessions and your life will be at the mercy of anyone whose conscience tells him (for there are many kinds of conscience) that he ought to rob you or to kill you. For he will be able to do so with impunity.

I do not agree with your reasoning, Socrates. But even that I would prefer to serving in the army.

Would you, indeed? said Socrates. This conscience of yours is indeed a desperate companion and adviser: he hesitates at nothing. Are you sure that he is always right?

If he were not right, Socrates, he would not be my conscience.

Yet consider this, Phileleutherus: other men, whom you yourself would admit to be fully as wise and as good as you are yourself, other men, I say, friends of yours whom you have respected, are serving in the army, and many of them have fought bravely (and, indeed, some have been killed in so doing), and their consciences did not prevent them from becoming soldiers. Were they, then, wrong to go as they did?

I do not know anything about that, Socrates. If their consciences told them that they were right to go, then they acted rightly in so doing.

It appears, then, Phileleutherus, that there is no such thing as absolute right or absolute wrong, but that everyone ought to do as he thinks he ought; and that if (as I said) my conscience should prompt me to kill you, that will be right for me. But if there is no such thing as absolute right, how can your conscience be right? I should really like to understand that.

Well, Socrates, it is, I must say, very strange to hear you sneering at a man's conscience. You yourself, in your previous state of existence (of which I have read), had an inward adviser who used to counsel you to do things which were not approved by many of your fellow-citizens.

That is very true, Phileleutherus: I am glad you reminded me of it. But it seems to me that the adviser to which you refer cannot have been quite like what you call conscience. For if you remember, when the Socrates of whom you speak was in prison, having been condemned to death by the State, he was strongly urged by his friend Crito and others to escape, and he might have done so; but being, as usual, advised by this Daimonion which was always with him, he argued that as he had been brought up and kept in safety for so many years by the State, it would be a strange thing if he were to set the wishes of the State at nought so as to save his life. But you, O Phileleutherus, have a different kind of Daimonion. He tells you that it is right to disregard the wishes of the State if thereby you can avoid service in the army and make your life the safer.

All very fine, Socrates, he said. But you must remember that by refusing to be a soldier I am really benefitting the State and not injuring it.

Phileleutherus, you are too modest.

No, I do not mean what you apparently suppose. What I mean, Socrates, is this: Peace is better for

the State than war; now, if everybody refuses to be a soldier there can be no war; for there will be no one to do the fighting.

But if we have no army to defend us will not the enemy come and deprive us of all that we possess? And will not that make him still more certain that it is a good thing to have an army and attack his neighbours?

No, certainly not; for he, of course, will follow our example and get rid of his army, too, when he sees that we are at peace.

Phileleutherus, said Socrates, if you will come with me to the seller of drugs you shall have a cup of hellebore at my expense. I am sure that you need it.

A. D. G.

MR. PARKER'S "DISRAELI".

By ARTHUR A. BAUMANN.

I WENT to see "Disraeli" last week, and, looking round the stalls and boxes, concluded that besides myself there were not more than two or three persons present who had seen and heard the original in the flesh. It is a wonderful piece of character-acting, Mr. Dennis Eadie's impersonation of an exotic genius, whom chance projected into "*le monde où l'on s'ennuie*". But the play is spoiled by absurdities and anachronisms, which might easily be corrected without impairing the dramatic effect, and which ought to be removed, because the piece is not meant to tickle the ears of the groundlings, but to interest educated people.

The great blot is the Governor of the Bank of England. Even in the seventies of the last century that functionary did not dress and speak like a retired butcher. The idea that the Governor of the Bank could shout at the Prime Minister and address him as an "alien Jew" is purely American. The Governor of the Bank ought to be suave, deferential, quietly obstinate and stupid, and perhaps satirical.

The story of the stopped cheque is too absurd for a modern audience. If a cosmopolitan financier, with a house in Frankfort, had given a cheque to Disraeli for the purchase of the Suez Canal shares he would not provide for it by exporting bullion from Germany: he would buy bills on London. Or if (in possible but exceptional circumstances) he did order bullion or coin to be sent, and Bismarck arrested the ship, it would have been an act of war. Much as Bismarck may have disliked the purchase of the Canal shares—though it is notorious that he wanted us to take Egypt—he certainly was not prepared to declare war on England in 1875.

The anachronisms in the last scene are a little too glaring to go down. There Lord Beaconsfield appears, with the ribbon of the Garter (the wrong colour), having made the Queen an Empress, and hands out Lady Beaconsfield to receive the Sovereign, date about 1875. When Disraeli went out of office in 1868 he obtained a peerage for his wife, who was created Viscountess Beaconsfield, he remaining a commorer, just as the elder Pitt got his wife made Lady Chatham some years before he took a peerage himself. Lady Beaconsfield died in 1872 or 1873, nearly two years before Dizzy became Prime Minister for the second time. He was made Earl of Beaconsfield at the end of 1876 or 1877, and it was about that time that the Imperial Title Bill was passed. It must be admitted that Mr. Parker's jumble of dates is pretty audacious. What does it matter in a play? It would not matter in a farce or musical drama: but this play is meant for people who know something. There is one other fault I must find. Mr. Dennis Eadie speaks throughout in a hoarse falsetto, which must be very trying for his vocal chords, and is not very pleasing to his audience. Disraeli's voice was deep and powerful, not melodious, as it wanted variety of notes. Would it not be better for Mr. Dennis Eadie to speak in his natural voice, which is not, if I remember right, deep, but is not high? The play interested and amused me vastly.

THE CUCKOO IN SUSSEX.

THERE comes a certain week, or perhaps a whole fortnight, every year in the English spring when the call of the cuckoo is so constant, so insistent, that it ceases to be noticeable to the ear. It appears then to be worked into the tissue of the day, like blue sky and the piled-up white cumulus cloud of midsummer, or take the completed green of beech and oak when chlorophyll has done its full work on the face of the woods. This cuckoo period is presented by a touch or two in "*The Woodlanders*", though there the call of the bird is employed, quite naturally and fairly, to heighten the picture of the misery of the forsaken heroine; and the sound, far from being unnoted by the ear, is acutely heard and felt. It is the cuckoo note which Elizabethans quaintly sang and satirized—Shakespeare's "unpleasing to a married ear". Ordinarily, when our nerves are not all in a jangle of pain, mental or physical, the note is delicious, full of balm, like running water in the distance, or the sound of wind in the tops of high fir trees, or the patter of rain on large leaves after a drought.

Moreover, this intensive cuckoo period falls, commonly, late on in May, during the most perfect days in the whole year, if the weather is good—days when the green is all but at its full without yet having lost a trace of its wonderful freshness. Then it is that the note goes on all day long, beginning at dawn, about the time of the multitudinous waking of skylarks and rushing up into the air over green corn—a good hour or two before the pester of sparrows troubles a wakeful ear, or the sometimes aggressive coo of pigeons and doves, two sounds we can always do well without in the early morning—and continuing into the deep twilight.

This year, however, the intensive cuckoo might almost be described as starting at the end of the third week in April. On 21 April, in Sussex, the cuckoo was calling soon after dawn, and it went on calling throughout the day, till half-past seven in the evening, when the only other bird singing was the song thrush, and when blackbirds and redbreasts were going to roost. The cuckoo all day in fields and woods where the willow wren and the chiffchaff were silent—only a sprinkling of them being seen in their usual haunts by 21 April, and scarcely any of them yet singing—is not a common experience in the south of England. It is a late spring, late in leaf—oak woods still looking almost wintry—and late in summer birds of passage; but strangely early in this cuckoo feature, this intensive call note from dawn till dark with scarcely an interval.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE RISING IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Chelsea, 26 April.

SIR,—As I served for six years (1886-1892) in Ireland as Special Commissioner of Police for disturbed counties under Mr. Balfour, who, as Chief Secretary for Ireland, displayed splendid energy, dauntless courage, and perfect tact, I venture to express my opinion, begotten of experience, that the late Government, through its weakness and culpable slackness, is entirely responsible for the rising of armed men in Ireland. What other Government in the wide world would have allowed first the North and then the rest of an inflammable country like Ireland to import arms *ad libitum*, and arm the people widespread? Surely they knew something of the history of Ireland and the uses that are made of arms when the people are allowed to have them.

The rising in Dublin was, no doubt, meant to be simultaneous with Sir Roger Casement's landing with Germans, arms, and ammunition on the west coast; this ended in a fiasco, but the Dublin laments were not to be baulked of their rising, and great damage has been done. This revolt could not have taken place in Mr. Balfour's time, as the Irish Government then pos-

sessed both courage and foresight, and the designed revolt would have been known of through informers and forestalled. It can easily be dealt with if courage and determination are shown by the authorities. Above all, Ireland, or at all events Dublin, or any other place where rebellion is shown, should be put under martial law, so that every offence against the realm may be at once dealt with by the military authorities. They alone are capable of dealing with a crisis like this, and will do so effectually if politicians, and especially lawyer-politicians, keep their fingers out of the basket. Their interference in Ireland in times of trouble has always been deadly. It was Lord Strathairne, the Commander-in-Chief, who crushed the Fenian rising, which promised to grow into widespread rebellion, not the Government, which for long was in a constant state of panic! *Absit omen!* It is only right and fair to state that Mr. Redmond and the Irish party have no connection with the disturbances, which are the work of Count Bernstorff and Irish and German Americans. The patriotism and loyalty of Mr. Redmond and most of his followers to the Empire have been undoubted and conspicuous, and I venture to assert that no one deprecates the rising and ruffianism of the Sinn Féin hooligans, the worthy accomplices of the Kaiser, more than they do.

Your obedient servant,
ALFRED E. TURNER.

THE POLICY OF FUDGE AND FUNK.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

25 April 1916.

SIR,—Suppose the soldiers fought on the methods in which the partisans conducted the war at home.

Suppose, when there was urgent need to charge and to attack the enemy in a strong position, the officers resolved to wait and see.

Suppose some spokesman for the rank and file told the officers that the mass of the soldiers would down bayonets if they were ordered to do something they did not want to do.

Suppose the soldiers claimed that the word of command should not be given until the voluntary principle—i.e., will you charge or won't you charge?—had been given one more trial, and that, even so, it should only be adopted tentatively as an expedient, and that, after a particular battle was over, it should not be permitted again, or be regarded as a precedent.

Suppose the soldiers, on being ordered to charge, claimed first to discuss the matter and divide on it.

Suppose the soldiers in danger there canted, like the smug partisans in safety here, about the pride and glory of the "voluntary principle, sir", and the "free and spontaneous uprising of a people".

Suppose they decided, before agreeing to charge, to examine with "composure" all the available figures showing how many men are in the enemy trenches and how many guns sweep the ground in front of them.

Suppose it were reported that the Generalissimo had given it out—in reply to a deputation of men—that he detested the idea of men being ordered to make a bayonet charge, and though, as an expedient, he had agreed to this one being made, he solemnly pledged himself never to agree to another one, in any circumstances, being made, and if such a charge were decided on he, personally, should resign his command.

Suppose, when the soldiers threatened to down bayonets, rifles, or machine-guns, certain officers with a gift of the gab were sent by the Headquarters Staff to address the strikers eloquently and butter them up.

Suppose the soldiers on strike had the open and loud sympathy of a number of powerful newspapers, who backed them up daily in a No-Charge agitation and screamed against the officers who ordered a charge as brutal militarists and Feudalists and Junkers and all the rest of the snivelling No-Conscriptionist lingo.

Suppose some of these newspapers went so far as, in effect, to say, "Rather than abandon our No-Charge principles, which we inherited from Mr. Schnadhorst,

and which were part of the Newcastle Programme, we would lose the war".

Suppose many of the officers themselves, as well as the No-Charge newspapers, argued: "Charging will not pay us and our Allies, for it will dispose of so many men that the trade of the country will suffer—the country will lose too much £ s. d. if it agrees to this policy of a charge".

Suppose large numbers of the officers and men decided, having carefully considered all the facts and figures, that they would return home and do their duty to the Allies by going into trade instead of into the trench.

Suppose on the instant need arising of men to go out and cut the wire entanglements, before an attack on the enemy, it were thought advisable to appoint a Select Committee, with power to consider the whole subject of the cutting of wire entanglements—a Committee including, say, Mr. Norman Angell, Mr. Ponsonby, the editors of the "Daily News" and "Westminster Gazette", and Sir John Simon as Chairman.

Suppose the plea were put before this Committee that a man ought not to be expected to cut wire entanglements if he had conscientious objections to such a procedure.

Suppose the agitation arose and spread like wildfire somewhere in France that (1) the front trenches and (2) the back trenches ought to be allotted, respectively, to (1) Bachelor and (2) Benedick.

Suppose, in short, that the soldiers at the front to-day cared only for their own comfort and carcasses, and their officers studied chiefly their own adored politics and principles and prospects after the war, and only dared to give disagreeable orders after the soldiers had been flattered by dodgers and demagogues and compromised and pledged into obeying disagreeable orders.

Why, then, the state of things at the front would approximate in funk and fudge to the state of things among our party men to-day.

But, luckily, it does not so approximate, even in the faintest degree, for it happens that Men are doing Britain's job over there, and not molluscs.

I am, yours faithfully,
CANDIDUS.

THE FOLLY OF BOASTING ABOUT THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

19 April 1916

SIR,—Sailors are proverbially superstitious, but a good deal of accumulated experience is sometimes found to underlie that which passes for superstition, and there can be little doubt that when Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux remarked in the course of the Navy debate last month: "Everybody knows boasting is unlucky", the words would find an echo far beyond the limits of the Service.

Lord Dunraven, in his preface to the admirable letter which you published on 18 March, suggested that the criticisms upon Colonel Churchill's latest speech in the House of Commons had been unduly harsh. Possibly this may be quite true, regarded from the peace-time standpoint of "letting by-gones be by-gones". There is a standpoint, however—that of those who recognise in Mr. Churchill the originator and chief exemplar of the unspeakably foolish habit of boasting about the Navy in time of war—from which one can only regard with amazement the leniency of the criticism which failed to remind him of that exceedingly awkward fact.

From the time when, in November 1914, the then First Lord assured Parliament not only that Germany could not "by any human agency" add more than three ships to her Dreadnought strength of August 1914 before the end of 1915, but went on to boast that we could afford to lose a Dreadnought a month for the following year without materially affecting our margin of superiority, few judicious observers could regard without disquietude the probable effect upon public opinion of such indiscretions from such a source. It is wholly inconceivable that statements of this

character could fail to intensify the efforts of the enemy; even assuming—if one can summon the requisite credulity—that they did not serve as a serious deterrent to our own. There is only too much reason to fear that they have served as such a deterrent—they and their countless progeny propagated so industriously for the "heartening" of the nation!

Visits to the Fleet, and cinema displays of "Britain Prepared"—what do they amount to beyond purveying assurance for the already over-assured, and rendering impossible the creation of a public determination to strengthen the Navy at all costs?

The only kind of cinema display which would promptly arouse that determination is, unhappily, not available. For we may be perfectly certain that the German naval authorities will see to it that no record of what is afoot in their arsenals and shipyards will yet be permitted to disturb the complaisant "Unassailable Naval Supremacy" attitude of the British public.

Yours faithfully,
"REALIST."

WANTED—A NATIONAL PICTON.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

94, Park Street, Grosvenor Square.

SIR,—In an excellent little brochure entitled "The 3rd Division", by its present commander, Major-General A. Haldane, C.B., D.S.O., and evidently intended for the laudable object of encouraging the *esprit de corps* of the division under his command and reminding it of the glorious traditions of its past, an anecdote is recorded of General Picton, who commanded the 3rd Division in the Peninsular War.

"The commissary had been ordered to have the rations of the 3rd Division ready at a certain spot at a certain hour. They were not forthcoming, but only a series of excuses to account for their non-arrival. Picton grimly pointed to a neighbouring tree and said: 'Well, sir, if you don't get the rations for my division at the place mentioned by twelve o'clock to-morrow, I will hang you on it at half-past.' The commissary rode straight to Lord Wellington and complained, with much injured dignity, of the general's violent and ungentlemanly language. His lordship only remarked: 'Oh, he said he'd hang you, did he?' 'Yes, my lord.' 'Well, General Picton is a man of his word; I think you'd better get the rations up in time.' Further advice was unnecessary, the rations were there to the moment."

A little of Picton's spirit would go a very long way in national affairs as managed by the Government. There are reasons galore why this has not been done, that can't be done, and the other will take too much time, etc. But if the proper spirit, determination, and prompt decision were shown "the rations would be there to the moment". The day of reckoning for slackers—mental as well as physical—must inevitably come.

It does one good to turn from the party politicians at home and to read the last paragraph addressed by General Haldane to his gallant men in the heat of the terrible struggle on the Western Front:

"Sixty years have gone by since the Crimean War, and the 3rd Division is once again in the field, fighting for the same great cause of liberty in which it bore so noble a part a century ago. It has shared in all the great actions of this titanic campaign, has had one of its commanders—Major-General Hubert Hamilton—killed in action, and has well sustained its right to the proud title—the Fighting Division—which it earned a hundred years ago under Picton. It is well that those who now fight in the ranks of this—one of the oldest divisions of the British Army—should, besides knowing the history of their own regiment, learn how gloriously the 3rd Division has always borne itself in the great campaigns in which the British Army has taken part in the past, and how it behaves one and all to strive their utmost to maintain its glorious traditions."

These words will appeal not only to the 3rd Division but to the whole Army and Navy, and to every right-thinking man and woman in the Empire.

Yours, etc.,
ARTHUR LOVELL.

THE CONSTABULARY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

10 April 1916.

SIR,—The London papers continue to print frequent appeals for more men of over the military service age to act as Special Constables in various divisions of the Metropolis. Some of these Special Constables are needed to watch various buildings and works at night—and by day in certain instances—others are needed to help the diminished forces of the paid, professional Metropolitan Police in night patrol work, and possibly (though I am not sure about this) for point duties. Surely it is a little ignominious that, in the twenty-first month of the war, such appeals to, obviously, not too eager volunteers should be necessary. Is not the time coming when the Government should think about plans for regularising the position, and of making it clear to the volunteers of over the military age that if they do not come they may presently be reminded in a more impressive way of their duty?

I dare say it may be argued that this would be the *reductio ad absurdum* of the compulsory principle; but is there not such a thing as a *reductio ad verendum* of the voluntary principle? And are we not reaching somewhat near it when the authorities, at the approach of the third year of the war, put out, not always it would seem successfully, appeals to men to help the Metropolitan Police, a splendid body of workers who have been reduced in numbers, necessarily, through the recruiting campaign?

Yours, etc.,
SYSTEMATICUS.

THE KAISER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Grange, near Rotherham,

23 April 1916.

SIR,—The name of the German Emperor to Sir Alfred Turner is evidently like a red rag to a bull. But we should give even the devil his due. By the way, why is he always called *the* Kaiser? The Kaiser is the Emperor Francis Joseph, the direct successor of the Roman Cæsars, whose actual ancestors have borne the title for several hundred years. No doubt the German Emperor is Kaiser in Germany, just as the King is Kaisir-i-Hind. But to return to the degree of his guilt. The French Ambassador to Germany reported to his Government, as set forth in the Yellow Book, that, in the summer of 1914, he found the Emperor no longer in favour of peace. Surely the inference from this is that up to then he had been holding back his counsellors, who were in favour of war. Again, he was reported to have returned from a voyage to northern waters and to have found that the Crown Prince's party had made war inevitable. Yet again, he is now reported to be saying: "It was not I that wanted war". Lest I should be accused of being a pro-German, let me say that at the end of the war I would gladly see the German Emperor tried by his peers for the misdeeds of his servants, for which he may have been responsible, and, if found guilty, executed. Also let me protest most strongly against the saying imputed to General Botha in the Press that he had consulted the Imperial Government concerning the punishment of the German officials guilty of the atrocities against British prisoners in South-West Africa, and that they had replied that they did not wish for a policy of revenge. Can just punishment be described as revenge? Such a saying (coming from the Government, of course, not from General Botha) is only worthy to be set beside that of President Wilson, that a nation might be too proud to fight.

I should like to end up my letter on a pleasant theme and with a commonplace explanation of Swinburne's lines:

"Time with a gift of tears,
Grief with a glass that ran".

In time the relief of tears is granted to the sufferer, whose sorrow is at first too great for them; and there is a limit to grief.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GILBERT E. MOULD.

A NEW GERMAN PLOT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.
Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.,

31 March 1916.

SIR,—The National Council of the Teutonic Sons of America met on 27 March at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago, and adopted a resolution which reads in part: "Resolved, that the Teutonic Sons of America will offer to the United States Army the services of five trained soldiers of Teutonic origin, *who have served in the German Army*, for every recruit of English origin", etc., etc.

If this plan (or plot) were to be successfully carried out, the resulting United States Army would be composed largely, if not mainly, of German and Austrian reservists—that is to say, of men who, at the beginning of their military career as soldiers of "the Fatherland", had solemnly sworn allegiance to their Kaiser. In case of a war with Germany it would be with this army that the United States of America would be compelled to fight the Germans. The handicap would be monstrous and impossible.

The American people are so simple-minded and optimistic that they will probably accept this offer of German reservists for the United States Army as a final and convincing proof of German-American loyalty. To those who have been taught by experience to understand the Germans the plot fairly reeks with German treachery.

Your obedient servant,
BERTRAND SHADWELL.

P.S.—N.B.—At the present moment there is a dangerously large percentage of German and Austrian reservists serving in the United States Army.—B.S.

WOMEN'S FASHIONS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.
Star Hill, Rochester.

SIR,—Just before the war broke out the Plumage Bill was shelved (which ought to have been impossible, since some nine-tenths of the House was in its favour), causing bitter disappointment to its supporters all over the Empire. Since, however, the iniquities of the plumage trade had been widely advertised, so much so that it is difficult to believe there was a woman or girl in this country unacquainted, more or less, with its horrors, one might reasonably have hoped that they, our womankind, would have shown sufficient kindness of heart and hatred of cruelty and selfishness to have refused to follow the fashions in plumage any longer. What, however, is the fact? Probably never have more birds and more plumage been worn than this winter.

There is, indeed, a sort of savage ferocity which characterises the dress of thousands of women. Furs, for instance, which are a luxury not a necessity in our climate, are so worn that the heads of the creatures which compose them, open-mouthed, staring glass eyes (creating a feeling of disgust and indignation in the beholder, though not easily vented), are exhibited as much as possible, and considered in good taste!

One might have hoped this war would have brought out the kindness of our women; in many respects the reverse is the case.

I am, yours faithfully,
FRANK C. H. BORRETT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Amongst the many disgusting features of several daily papers, the impudence with which extravagance in dress is preached in the "fashion articles" of organs which, in their editorials, profess to advocate thrift is surely worth

notice. In the old days some papers which pretended to protest against the wearing of birds' plumage used to print articles that told women that they must have "ospreys", or be hopelessly out of the fashion. The explanation, I understand, is that in some cases editors had no control over those portions of their paper in which certain commercial interests had a voice. It was a discreditable state of affairs, but hardly of national importance. But the enclosed cutting from a prominent evening newspaper is an example of a serious scandal:—

"THE REVIVAL OF LACE."

"BY OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT."

"The amount of flouncing used to fashion lace frocks of all description might well be measured by the mile rather than by the yard, for the quantity required for making the plainest and most unpretentious of the new full-skirted three-tier frocks is simply colossal, and does a very great deal toward running up the cost, until the prices of toilettes of this kind would horrify those who are preaching the virtues of a campaign of thrift. Still, nothing looks more attractive either for day or evening wear than black or white lace dresses which have their skirts made entirely of two or three deep flounces of lace measuring anything from five to ten yards round the hem, which are mounted on a full net foundation and worn over one of the new hooped petticoats which also terminate in a full-pleated lace flounce."

Women whose husbands and brothers are in the Services are not being misled by their dressmakers into the follies eulogised by "Lady Correspondents". But is it surprising that many of the workers continue to believe that all the talk about thrift and self-sacrifice which they hear from the so-called "governing classes" is rank hypocrisy when they read columns of this kind in papers supposed to appeal to gentlewomen?

Tradesmen of various kinds are doing very well indeed at present, and it seems a trifle unnecessary that they should be allowed to utilise those portions of the newspapers which are not labelled "Advertisement" for the publication of matter which counteracts our national efforts at economy, fosters a spirit of suspicion and class jealousy among those sections of our countrymen whose women do not buy evening dresses, and exhibits us to allied and neutral countries as humbugs. The women of the landed gentry and the professional classes are not wasting money upon extravagance in dress, and these fashion columns must be written by the agents of rich tradesmen for the wives and daughters of other rich tradesmen. Would it not, then, be more decent to confine such writing to trade organs?

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
EUMAEUS.

SHOULD LUXURIES BE REDUCED?

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

11, Kasi Nath Bose Lane,
Simla P.O., Calcutta,

5 March 1916.

SIR,—The cry is "Curtail your wants". In my humble opinion this cry is unpatriotic.

Want may be said to be the "mother" of our national wealth. Ten years ago I could do without a motor-car, but I cannot do without it now. It costs much for its upkeep, but I ought to afford it because I can afford to have it. The motor-car industry owes its success to the well-to-do. If they give up their motor-cars to-morrow thousands will have to starve. Similar remarks may be made in regard to the cinema and other industries—luxuries from a certain point of view, no doubt—but which afford employment to thousands.

Things which are apparently useless will be found to be necessities from the national point of view. There are a thousand and one things which we can well do without, but if we do not buy them what will become of the hundreds and thousands who depend upon them for their livelihood? They will starve and go to increase the nation's paupers.

Waste is bad, but there must be no curtailment of production in any line. Let us not forget this fact when raising the cry "Reduce your luxuries".

Yours faithfully,

S. B. BANERJEA,

Editor of the "Calcutta University Magazine".

THE POPULATION OF GERMANY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Some years ago I wrote a reply or sequel to a letter by Lady Grove, which you were good enough to publish, on Sex.

Our papers are now making great play with the alleged numerical "superiority" [?] of illegitimate births in Germany as compared to England. When the war broke out I wrote to a weekly Church paper asking if there were any available statistics as to the relative numbers of male to female births in Germany, but the editor, in a private letter, said no statistics were available. I hold very strongly that with their whole national psychology directed towards war their male births probably outnumber female births enormously, and that the State takes care that the babies do not die. I see assertions that their infant mortality is far in excess of ours. But I doubt it. I said in my previous letter, and asked for confirmation which was not forthcoming, however, that judging by the reports of dead infants found, males predominated greatly, and one imagines such infants to be illegitimate, and this the reason for their destruction. Now if German illegitimacy is four times ours or more and my theory has any basis at all, their male births are probably largely in excess of ours. I am quite sure that Germany has not allowed any real census figures to become public, and I have always laughed at the army figures given by voluble gentlemen. I want to hear the truth about German population and its male proportion. I find a few who agree with me, soldiers and doctors, but they feel our Government are hopeless. Having seen and known the German even as prisoner they respect his capacity for thoroughness and contrast him favourably with our own men of the same class.

Only those who make a point of reading all sides and weighing the pros and cons for themselves can arrive at any conclusion worth having, and the conclusion of those who do this is that the war will last another twenty months or longer and end in an inconclusive peace.

Yours truly,

BEATRICE H. DERRY.

SHAKESPEARE AND DEMOCRACY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Buckhurst Hill,

25 April 1916.

SIR,—It is not often that one finds the SATURDAY REVIEW in agreement even by inference with the "Daily News". The "Daily News", in its notice of my little book, "Shakespeare and Democracy", says the price is twice that usually charged for a work of this size. You state the price at 1s. net; the published price is 2s. net.

I thank you for your kindly review; it is *not* in keeping with that in the "Daily News", which asks what does it matter? Apparently, judging from the manner in which Radicals in the past have been concerned to prove that Shakespeare was a snob and anti-democratic, it mattered a great deal—until someone was prepared to show that the Radical view was wrong.

Yours truly,

EDWARD SALMON.

WORDSWORTH NO CRITIC.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In your reviewer's article—"Wordsworth and the Wordsworthians", he has put his mental finger unerringly on the weakness of Wordsworth, and his observations there-

on are not more true than just. Those of us who love the best of Wordsworth's poems are forced to the conclusion that, though a great poet, he was not a great critic. How much he was indebted to Coleridge, who was one of the greatest critics, in that golden period of his life, viz., 1798-1808, we shall never precisely know. But most certainly W. W., encased in an armour of egotism that no hostile criticism could pierce, would have stoutly maintained that his "drowsy, frowsy" "Excursion", where one jewel shines in the dry desert of a thousand lines, was quite equal in poetic merit to his "Intimations of Immortality", or the "Lines written above Tintern". In brief, as your reviewer aptly observes: "The plain truth of the matter is that Coleridge was a very great critic and that Wordsworth was not a critic at all". It is an extraordinary fact in the poetic life of Wordsworth that, though he was writing for sixty years, his supreme poems, which have given him immortal place in the hierarchy of English poets, were all written in the above short period of his career, so that, had his death occurred in 1808 instead of 1850, his reputation would not in the least have been impaired. In Wordsworth's inspired moments he wrote like an angel, but when the "not ourselves" was absent, he frequently dropped to the level of Martin Tupper.

Faithfully yours,

STANLEY HUTTON.

"IN TIME OF 'THE BREAKING OF NATIONS'."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Ardnaree, Iona Road,

Dublin, April 1916.

SIR,—An article appeared in the SATURDAY REVIEW lately which might almost be thought, on a hasty reading, to bear the semblance of an apology for your publication of Mr. Thomas Hardy's poem, "In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations'". Such, I am sure, was not the intention of your contributor, "D.", with whom I would now join issue on another point. The writer of the article told us what questions certain people were asking about the lines; he prepared the way for his reply by the not uncommon method of ironical admission; and he gave the reply. The questions were fairly summarised: "Why were these lines written, why printed, and why quoted so largely? In what way was it worth while?" The reply was: "It was not worth while, unless one happened to value radium". What followed was interesting, even though the simile was worked rather hard; but we were not enlightened as to one property of radium. Does it live and inhere in a writer, thence communicated to all his work? Or is it to be found but rarely, in the more precious deposits of his mind and art, precious because of this incalculable element? Does everything by Scott, by Keats, by Wordsworth hold this illuminant—does, for instance, "Castle Dangerous", "On Receiving a Laurel Wreath from Leigh Hunt", the "Anecdote for Fathers"?

Mr. Hardy is a very great novelist; how great a poet we cannot yet, perhaps, estimate. Your contributor names certain poems wherein, I infer (his meaning here is somewhat elusive), one may recognise "that authentic fire of the gods". But unless he will say of the lines, "In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations'", that they, also, live and are lit by the radium which is unquestionably present in so much of the master's work, I fear, we must return again to at least one of those awkward questions: "Why were these lines printed?" And to that question the reply must surely follow: "Because—radium or no radium—they were written by Thomas Hardy".

Your obedient servant,

E. J. FRAZER HEARNE.

[The lines in question were printed in the SATURDAY REVIEW because they were typical work, profound and beautiful, of a great master, the one authentic genius in our literature to-day.—Editor, "S. R."]

THE DECAY OF FAITH.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Marske Rectory, Richmond, Yorks.

SIR,—The cure proposed for the alleged decay of faith by your correspondent "Presbyter" seems hardly to touch the root of the evil. The decay of faith is in great measure due to decay of belief in the ancient doctrines and pre-scientific theories which the Church still maintains in its formularies and worship. "Presbyter" seems to assume that no change or reconstruction of belief is made necessary by the great advances of modern learning, but merely a more systematic defence and explanation of the old forms of faith. No amount of lectures will win back the modern-minded religious man to Christian faith if he is required to ignore or contradict his historic, scientific, moral and philosophical knowledge in order to join the Christian Church.

The great problem of the transformation of the child's belief into the man's belief is largely a man-made difficulty, due to the very fact that the Church has failed to recognise the new knowledge as a gift from God. The result is that in the great majority of schools the old views of the Bible and the Creeds are still taught, and the children's minds are quite unprepared to fit in the new truth which they will afterwards learn with the obsolete theories which they have been taught to associate with the very essence of the Christian faith.

The remedy for the prevailing scepticism lies in a renewal of faith in the spirit of truth. For this faith alone can open our minds to receive new truth and remove the man-made obstacles to Christian belief. And from faith in the progressive revelation of the Holy Spirit there inevitably follows the duty of the Church (to which the Churchmen's Union is calling it) to alter its forms of belief and of worship as demanded by the Word of the Living God.

I am, Sir, etc.,

CAVENDISH MOXON.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Coppgrove Rectory,

Burton Leonard, Yorkshire.

SIR,—May I beg a small space to deal with one point in "Presbyter's" most important letter on "The Decay of Faith"? He deplores that the child's religious belief is not transformed into the man's, and rightly asks what effort is being made to assist the process of transformation. May I call his attention, and that of your readers, to one effort in that direction which has been made for some years past by a society known as the Churchmen's Union? This society exists for the advancement of liberal religious thought among Churchmen, as being both for the good of the individual and the good of the Church and nation generally. By publishing books, occasional papers, and magazines, by means of public and private meetings and an annual conference, by the formation of a lending library, its members have done what they can to call the attention of the Church authorities and others to this great need and to meet it. In a sense they have been ahead of their times and have incurred some of the misunderstanding which befalls such, but as the need for their well-meant efforts is more generally recognised by their fellow-Churchmen, it is to be hoped that many will unite with them, even though their doing so may rouse the dislike of obscurantists who still hold the child's faith and cannot see why everyone else should not do the same. The society numbers among its members many well-known theological writers. Earl Grey, who has seen much of the needs of Churchmen in the Colonies, is one of its Vice-Presidents. Its honorary secretary is the Rev. Cavendish Moxon, Marske Rectory, Richmond, Yorks.

I am, etc.,

HENRY D. A. MAJOR,

Editor of the "Modern Churchman."

EAST AND WEST.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

3, Downshire Square, Reading.

12 April 1916.

SIR,—I desire to thank you for the kind review of my book "East and West through Fifteen Centuries" in your issue of the 8th inst. I think, however, that it was rather hard that the reviewer, in regard to the important point of my refutation of Gibbon's assertion that the population of North Africa universally became Mahomedans, should have completely misrepresented my argument by speaking as though I had only given one proof (which he discounts) in support of it, whereas I gave three, and two of them are stronger proofs than the single one which he wishes to discount. The three proofs I gave* were (i.) the testimony of the *land*, (ii.) the testimony of *language*, and (iii.) the testimony of *race*, mentioning especially that (i.) and (ii.) were the strongest of the three proofs. The reviewer never mentioned either (i.) or (ii.) as existing at all, but represents my argument as based upon (iii.) alone, which he discounts. This, obviously, gives an entirely false impression to the public upon one of the principal points in the book, and is, therefore, unfair.

I am afraid the error cannot now be put right, though if, by a note of any sort in a subsequent issue of the paper, this false impression could be rectified I should consider it very kind if this were done.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE F. YOUNG.

P.S.—The one point which the reviewer mentions, viz.: (iii.) that of race, is, as noted by him, discounted. He has a right, of course, to his own opinion, but I should like to point out that he is mistaken in his argument. No "segregation from birth" has anything to do with the point, which is concerned with other characteristics than those to which the reviewer refers. It is *physical* characteristics, such as the colour of the nails, the colour of the skin, the colour of the eyes, certain changes of the body in sickness, etc., etc., which prove that the mixture of European and Asiatic blood is never obliterated; and neither segregation (if any has occurred, which is disputable) or non-segregation will affect this.

GREAT CRESTED GREBES AT RICHMOND PARK.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—A pair of great crested grebes nest every spring on the larger of the two Pen Ponds in Richmond Park. This year, however, two pairs were there on 20 February, and again on 5 March. But on 2 April there were no fewer than nine of the birds on the water. One pair was evidently building a nest under the drooping branches of the old willow on the island in the middle of the pond; but the others (except one solitary bird which seemed to keep aloof from the others) were all going through their courting "displays", and a wonderful sight it was. Frequently two, and once three, pairs "displayed" simultaneously. The display itself seems never to vary, though the preliminaries are not always the same. At one time, for instance, a pair of the birds, floating far apart, will suddenly dive towards each other, as though seized by a mutual impulse. Another pair will come together, swimming low in the water, with necks outstretched. As they meet they raise their necks and, sitting face to face with ruffs and crests expanded, shake their heads vigorously to an accompaniment of loud cluckings, uttered with the bills wide open. I have noticed that during courting great crested grebes are in the habit of preening themselves excessively, and this preening forms an integral part of the "display". Now and then the head-wagging is interrupted for a brief instant, the long necks shoot downwards and the action of preening is simulated. All the while loud cries resounded over the water. In addition to the rapid cluckings which accompany the "display", there are other cries—one a harsh croak and another a hoarse, barking sound—which

* "East and West through Fifteen Centuries", Vol. ii., pp. 539-541.

seem to be calls or possibly challenges. There were occasional battles, too. The rivals, drawing towards each other with heads low down, ruffs extended, and wings raised above the bodies, attacked with their long, sharp bills. Once, after a short fight, the routed bird took wing and flew half round the pond, only to be assailed again as he alighted. On 17 April there were still seven great crested grebes on the pond, but the excitement seemed almost entirely to have died down, and only one pair went through the courting ritual during the half hour that I watched them in pouring rain. Strange to say, there has been for the past month, on the smaller pond, a solitary grebe who seems to take no interest in the proceedings of his (or her) kindred a stone's throw away.

Yours, etc.,

R.

ATALANTA IN CALYDON.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Ashwood, Sevenoaks, 17 April 1916.

SIR,—May I inform Mr. Samson that I did not, as he alleges, cite other instances of inversion by Swinburne "as an explanation of their occurrence"? I cited them as showing the improbability of the "oversight" hypothesis. But neither is an inversion explained by calling it a figure and by giving the Greek name thereof. Mr. Robertson does explain, and, delicately as he has performed his dissection, one would rather he had left it alone. If the education of Mr. Scott and his literary friends demands a sacrifice, why not take their miserable changeling and hew it in pieces before their eyes? Tell them that "Grief with a gift of tears", while quite as alliterative as the original line, is nonsense, except to the queer creatures who enjoy a funeral; and that "Time with a glass that ran" seems to come from an auctioneer's catalogue.

I fail to understand Mr. Samson's charge of "an affectation of knowledge". There was nothing in my letter to justify it.

Yours faithfully,

W. M. MADDEN.

THE RHODODENDRONS IN HYDE PARK.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Junior Athenæum Club,

116, Piccadilly, W.,

5 April 1916.

SIR,—Are we down-hearted? It would seem so, if it be true that Hyde Park is not to have its "characteristic" display of rhododendrons this year, a display no other park in the world can equal.

Flower beds may be an expensive luxury; but surely the planting of rhododendrons need not be so. The plants are in existence and only need removal and placing. Much better that they should bloom in Hyde Park than bloom unseen! It would be a privilege to me, for one, to bear the expense of one of the plots. Is it too late? If only for the sake of our many wounded men who will frequent the park, surely the matter should be reconsidered. We must not be gloomy! We want cheerfulness, and a bit of colour in the park will help towards it.

Yours truly,

THOS. S. CARSON.

THE AGE FOR LEADERSHIP.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W.,

20 April.

SIR,—I have just read your able article on "The Age for Leadership."

You have, however, somewhat curiously omitted all reference to Field-Marshal Radetzki, who made his military reputation after attaining the age of 80, and continued in harness until he was 92.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. SURTEES,

Brig.-Gen.

REVIEWS.

THE HEROIC LITTLE ARMY.

"The First Seven Divisions." By Lord Ernest Hamilton. Hurst and Blackett. 6s. net.

THIS is the story, unfolded in a terse and rapid chronicle, of the little army which sailed from England for France in August 1914. It is a complete history of the fighting life and death of that little army, for no one may find to-day the battalions which landed at Havre or Boulogne less than two years ago. A third of the men are lying in the "bed of honour"; many more are broken men; and the rest are scarcely enough to leaven an army huge beyond the dreams of that first small band which fought at Mons, Le Cateau, and Ypres. On 12 November 1914—not three months after the British Expeditionary Force went into action—the 1st Brigade was taken back into reserve at the following strength:—1st Scots Guards: Captain Stracey and 69 men; Black Watch: Captain Fortune and 109 men; Camerons: Colonel McEwen, Major Craig-Browne, Lieutenant Dunsterville, and 140 men; 1st Coldstreams: No officers and 150 men. Such was the price this heroic little army paid for its "place in the story".

But that "place" is immortally won and the deeds by which it was won saved England's honour and prestige, which otherwise must have suffered hardly in those early months of the war. It is our one hope and chance with posterity that history will choose to dwell on what our tiny British Army achieved in France and Flanders in the first months of the war, and that in her wonder at those deeds she will be less curious to ask why England had perforce to send these seven divisions to do the work of seven times seven. Let us hope that some Napier may hereafter preserve for us this splendid story, whose bare recital, told in the curt style of a military despatch, cuts to the quick of our sense for the heroic and masterful.

"How was it done?" will be a constant question of military historians and strategists; and the answer in one form or another will come back invariably to this: that every man of the original Expeditionary Force did the work and endured the hardships of ten men; and that in the end the little army which flung itself into the breach of our military unpreparedness paid with its life for the three precious months in which Germany's first ambitious plans went awry. This record of the fighting of the first seven divisions is full of amazing short stories of physical and mental endurance, stories in which individual acts of heroism have to be picked out as representative rather than exceptional, in which whole battalions were keyed up to the level of their finest spirits. Such is the story of L Battery (R.H.A.), caught in the retreat from Le Cateau within a range of 400 yards of six German regiments with twelve guns. Two of the three British guns were quickly knocked out, and the whole of the German fire was concentrated on the one remaining gun. "Men and officers combined to serve this one gun. Captain Bradbury, in command, had one leg taken off by a shell, but he propped himself up and continued to direct the fire till he fell dead." The story continues to record eventually how one man after another continued to serve the gun and to die beside it. In the same retreat there are a dozen incidents on the same plane, of which, as a type, not as an exception, we light upon the story of Major Yate and his Yorkshiremen. "His company had been in the second line of trenches during the bombardment and had suffered terribly from the enemy's shell fire directed at one of our batteries just behind. When the German infantry came swarming up in the afternoon there were only nineteen sound men left in the trench. These nineteen kept up their fire to the last moment and then left the trench and charged, headed by Major Yate. There could be but one result. Major Yate fell, mortally wounded, and his gallant band of Yorkshiremen ceased to exist."

The British artillery at Le Cateau were outnumbered by five to one, and the strategical position on 26

August might well have been regarded as hopeless. The British had no well-prepared positions wherein to withstand the terrific fire of an enemy resolved upon smashing through. At Le Cateau one half of the British force was cut off from the other half. Technically the British Expeditionary Force was defeated. It was down and out according to all the rules. That it was saved at all was due chiefly to three things: (1) the fine generalship of Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien; (2) the desire of the whole British Army to die fighting rather than accept the military facts; (3) the irresolute and puzzled generalship of the German Staff.

Here we come upon a recurring factor in this story of the first seven divisions. That the German armies, with their vast smashing power in artillery and men and organisation, failed to reach either Paris or Calais is as remarkable as their later failure next year in Galicia to defeat decisively the Russian armies—armies which were literally starving for munitions of war. Lord Ernest Hamilton points out in his book that at Le Cateau had the German Staff divined the facts its success was inevitable. We must regard this amazing struggle as a struggle of desperate men, skillfully led and doing the work of an army five times the size against a machine strong enough to crush it utterly had its directors only put forth all its available power. Moreover, these men never had a doubt that the opposing force outmatched it in everything but courage and leading. As Lord Ernest writes: "There was never any question of victory. The disparity in numbers and in armament left no room for illusions on that score". We find here again that same fortunate cry of the German directors: "If we had only known!" which was reported in the epic story of the French Naval Division at Dixmude, and in the stand of the Fifth Division between Ypres and Givenchy. The heroic resistance of a few multiplied their battalions in the German estimates. In the case of the Fifth Division, "many of the regiments were technically annihilated. Their officers went, their senior N.C.O.'s went, they were worn to the last stage of mental and physical exhaustion by sleeplessness and by unceasing digging and fighting. And still they held on". And the conclusion reads: "Luckily the Germans—accurate as their information usually was—seem to have failed to realise the extreme exhaustion of the troops facing them at this part of the line, otherwise the history of events might have been different".

This book should be possessed and read by all. It gives in succinct and clear form the materials of a fighting epic. One comes from the book with three main impressions. The first is that here we have followed from end to end the fortunes of as fine an army as ever marched into action. The second is that they had to deal with the most brutally efficient and thoroughly equipped and prepared military machine that the modern world has seen. The third is that, mercifully, the world was spared a genius in control of this great machine. Otherwise the heroism of these seven divisions might, in material military value, have been in vain.

THE HEALTH OF THE WORKER.

"Occupations: From the Social, Hygienic, and Medical Points of View." By Sir Thomas Oliver. Cambridge: at the University Press. 6s. net.

THIS excellent book belongs to the Cambridge Public Health Series, which is edited with the greatest judgment by Dr. G. S. Graham-Smith and Mr. J. E. Purvis. Everybody is supposed to know that national health is the first wealth, and yet this truism has been forgotten by most persons in that vast change of life which has subordinated men to machines and given to our nation as a destiny the overthrown industrial system. Sir Thomas Oliver is a great physician of industrialism. He knows its tragic history, and asks his readers to study at first hand the incessant war of work against the nation's stamina, of to-day's needs against the future of our race. There

is not an industrial occupation in towns that fails to take its daily toll from the health of the young. Legislation has been busy with this problem since 1802, when the elder Sir Robert Peel tried to regulate labour in factories, limiting the work of apprentices to twelve hours a day and ordering other changes. Apprentices were drawn from workhouses and industrial homes, and there was no Dickens to write about their dreadful sufferings. In 1819 an Act was passed to put a stop to infant labour. No child under the age of nine was to work in the factories, and none under the age of sixteen was to toil for more than twelve hours a day, exclusive of mealtime. Local justices were to be factory inspectors. "The Act of 1819 was followed by a short amending Act, which allowed time lost by such an accident as water failure to be made up by working overtime, as in the night, also by doing away with a fixed time for dinner, so that this meal became a movable feast, to be eaten at any time between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., instead of between 11 and 2."

In 1825 the working day was lessened by 1½ hours; work on Saturday was limited to nine hours; and workers were allowed half-an-hour for dinner between 11 and 2. But the position of children remained horrible. It was proved that a badly-managed factory could unite the horrors of a slave-gang to those of a brothel. Reform crept into a sort of half-existence, for the chief opponents of reform were the parents who earned pence and shillings from their children's labour. Mr. Sadler did excellent service in 1831, preparing the way for Lord Ashley's commission and for Althorp's Factory Act, which limited the stress of work to nine hours a day for children under eleven. Four factory inspectors were appointed, with power to enter factories at any time; but this Act did not include the little children who toiled in potteries: it affected the textile industries mainly. In 1860 it was evident that physical degeneracy had begun in the pottery districts, and in 1864 an Act of Parliament gave better definition of a factory and commanded that factories were to be kept clean and that harmful gases were to be removed. But no sanitary provisions were made till 1896. Under the Workshops Regulation Act of 1867 the local authorities were made responsible for the administration of the law, but "neither a Medical Officer of Health nor an inspector under the local authority could enter a workshop without an order from a justice empowering him to do so within 48 hours after the date of issue of the order". So the Act failed.

Disraeli, with other Conservatives, supported reform; but Sir Thomas Oliver is right when he says that factory legislation will always be opposed by many persons on the ground that it is an interference with the liberty of the subject. As Disraeli said, "the Utilitarians in politics have been like the Utilitarians in religion: both have omitted imagination from their systems, and imagination governs mankind". Disraeli hated the Manchester School, which "counselled the people of England to lower their tone"; he saw clearly that the competition of industrial effort had become an ordeal by strife, demanding the most watchful legislation. John Bright took a different view, opposing laws for the protection of children and for the regulation of workshops. "As the social organisation has become more complete", says Sir Thomas Oliver, "the units composing it have become more and more interdependent. Man does not live to himself alone. In all dangerous occupations workpeople cannot be left entirely to their own devices, nor can they be allowed to take chances." Besides, one drawback of factory employment "is the withdrawal into its service of a large army of young women whose life might be spent at home with greater benefit to the race and with more influence for good upon the family. Factory legislation is in its objects humane. It recognises that life and limb must be protected, and that in the case of death or of accident employment carries with it financial responsibilities over and above the wages given for services rendered."

Sir Thomas Oliver reviews the present condition of the industrial grapple, and sets thought in motion on a great many urgent topics. What he writes ought to be a text-book in all schools that the State supports. It is ignorance among the working classes that gives rise to many accidents and to much bad health. But there are problems which only men of genius can solve in the dangers that belong to occupations. The most urgent one is the problem of dust, either organic dust, like the fine fluff from cotton, or inorganic dust, like the particles of stone set free in steel grinding. A few years ago an outbreak of tetanus among the jute workers of Dundee was proved to come from the spores of tetanus attached to the dust that rose into the air of the factory. Dust-asthma is prevalent among cotton operatives, and miners' phthisis also is a dust disease of the lungs. "If we could get rid of dust", says Sir Thomas Oliver, "and have our people working in a clear . . . atmosphere, we should hear less of occupational diseases".

Sir Thomas Oliver notes with regret two phases of snobbery in the choice of occupation. Boys wish to be clerks rather than use their abilities in the improvement of factory life; and on the part of girls there is a greater tendency for them to enter shops, offices, and factories than to stay at home or to enter domestic service. After ten or twelve years have been spent in any of these capacities it will be found that thrifty women who chose domestic work are as well off financially as the factory operatives, and they are better fitted to have homes of their own. "Domestic service, which is the legitimate calling for most women, should be made more attractive than it is"; but yet we fear that the excitement generated by to-day's life in towns will continue to sway women in their choice of occupations.

Sir Thomas Oliver's advice to boys: "Choose a trade which is in the ascendancy and not on the decline; one, too, in which risk to health and life from accident or from other causes is small".

IN PRAISE OF NORWAY.

"History of the Norwegian People." By Gjerset. 2 Vols. Macmillan. 32s. net.

IF you have ever had the good fortune to travel in Norway, and have learnt to love its rugged mountains, its silvery lakes, and its frothing, foaming rivers and falls—and the way the sunset paints the landscape, and the reflections look back at you from their calm, clear depths, in that magic hour when—

" . . . The silence grows
To that degree you half believe
It must get rid of what it knows".

If you have known this, then surely you must have wanted to know more, some of the stories this wondrous country could tell, and something of the people who have lived and died for it, and have called it their own.

In his history of the "Norwegian People" Professor Gjerset has given us a most complete record of a nation that was magnificent when other Powers of Europe were merely in embryo, and then lay dormant for centuries, only to awaken to a fuller, deeper vitality, and to develop into the independent self-reliant kingdom it has now become.

Our author deals with the inhabitants of Norway from the Stone Age onwards, and discovers them to have been always a tall, strong, fair-haired people. Quoting from the "Elder Edda", the typical Norwegian lady is aptly described:

" Her eyebrows were light,
Her bosom lighter,
Her neck whiter
Than the white snow."

And of her son it is equally well written that:

" Light was his hair,
Bright were his cheeks,
And sharp his eyes,
Like the serpent's."

The early chapters of this book are interspersed with plates illustrating rock-tracings from prehistoric times and interesting relics from the Stone and Bronze Ages. There is also an excellent plate showing the Viking ship which was unearthed near Sandefjord in the year 1880. This ship is actually on view in the museum in Christiania. It must have been the last resting-place of some chieftain, probably its owner, and the clay in which it was found embedded must have been the cause of its preservation. With the ship, we are told, were found the bones of twelve horses, six dogs, and some birds, which appear to have been sacrificed at the death of their master. In early days the Vikings were always either buried in their ships or else floated out to sea and burnt in them, with all their possessions on board, the whole forming a lighted funeral pyre. It must have been a most imposing sight, and a fit ending for a noble warrior.

The chapters dealing with the Vikings and their adventurous spirit of conquest and colonisation are full of interest, especially as their history is so intimately interwoven with our own. Cruel they were, as are most conquerors, but not annihilating. Indeed, we read of them as "carrying strength to others in their conquests". Having penetrated to Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Great Britain, and even to America, the hardy Norseman, with the rest of Europe, turned his thoughts and energies to the Holy Land, and fought in various crusades. Next we read of a quieter period of peace and plenty, tending somewhat, it is to be feared, to slackness and inertia. The "Triple Alliance" of Norway, Sweden and Denmark followed, and this quickly developed into the "Denmark-Norway" Union. The Union covered some four centuries, during which time the country became depleted of all its resources, of its leaders, its aristocracy, its wealth, and its religion; and the poet's cry comes home to us that "Norway has grown so old that she cannot even produce her own royal children".

The year 1814 brings us to another phase, when Norway and Sweden were united under one king, but not under one government; and thence ensue some of the most interesting chapters of the whole two volumes. They give a very lucid handling of a situation that must have been difficult in the extreme for both countries, and describe most tenderly the spiritual, literary, scientific and artistic awakening of a people who had long been oppressed, but who, through the greatest trials, injustices and misfortunes, had never been crushed; and who, although so closely allied with other countries, have always maintained a distinct character and nationality of their own. It is interesting to trace the same characteristics in the people through the ages, and to find that the generous hospitality so noticeable to all who travel in the Norway of to-day is a time-honoured tradition, handed down from the earliest days.

A delightful account of the shipwrecked Italian Captain Quirini's sojourn in Norway in the fifteenth century is given in this book. From it one gets a homely view of the manners and customs of the people of the time, their warm-hearted welcome, and their

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kindly help and generous guidance of the stranger in the land. It is natural that the people of a country with so large a proportion of coast-line should develop fishing and shipping industries. These we read of from earliest times, and, indeed, the Norwegians seem always to have been amongst the greatest navigators of the world.

We are told that in olden days war was the "sport of kings"; Norway played her fair part in this, and when over-sporting kings had brought her resources to such a low ebb that she could no longer support a navy of her own her men were hired out to "stiffen" other navies, and an amusing story is told of a fierce fight in the North Sea between an English privateer and a Dutch vessel. The English privateer won the day, and it was discovered that both ships were captained by Norwegians!

Both volumes of the "History of the Norwegian People" are well annotated, and many interesting references to contemporary and other writings are given throughout the book, so that the reader who wishes to dip deeper into the subject has ample opportunity afforded him. There are illustrations, too, in plenty, and portraits of the distinguished people of more modern times. Norway seems always to have had poets to speak for her, and she is richer in literature than any other northern country. In art and science, too, although her university is only of so recent standing, she is well to the fore. The closing chapters of the book are, as they should be, the most interesting of all. The whole book leads up to them most naturally, and one is intensely interested in the trials and difficulties of the dual government during the period of union with Sweden, and the breathless excitement and anxiety of the rupture; and one closes the book with a thrill of content that Norway is at last an independent kingdom, with a king and government all her own, and ample scope to widen her sphere and develop her revenue and resources as she wills.

A NOVEL OF WAR ATMOSPHERES.

"The King's Men." By John Palmer. Secker. 6s.

A FEW months ago a symposium of British authors told the world that the war could not influence literature for some time, because it pressed too closely and too terribly on sensitive and creative minds. Literature, a great and delicate civilian, was much too fastidious ever to rise with pride to the level of a national crisis in a war between armed peoples. It feared even to be a courtier for the people's pence on bookstalls and in bookshops: its ideal was a bad circulation and everlasting life. But in the years to come, when events had fallen into a cold perspective, literature would visit the war, as a decorous pilgrim, to discover some new refinements.

Not even a symposium of authors should talk fiction. A writer of originality is sure to find in war, as in peace, the material that he needs for a book. Mr. John Palmer is a case in point. He has written an original war story, not because he has tried to be uncommon, but because his mind is receptive and his style very eager and natural. He sees that the war in its civilian aspects has an astonishing varied drama, and from this drama he takes women and men, each with a distinctive atmosphere, and shows how they are affected in England by the general atmosphere of insular half-measures and strikes and clamorous appeals to a voluntary patriotism. It is a theme from life that Paul Bourget would enjoy, only he would treat of it in minute detail and at great length. Mr. John Palmer sets an example of brevity; he sees no reason why thoroughness should flow into a spate of 150,000 words. His characters live, the social pictures are true and various; the struggle between war and peace in the disunion of English individualism is made real with admirable skill.

Some of the men go to the war as naturally as ducks take to water. Others, accustomed to the atmosphere

of satisfying work and of ease and pleasure, fight with the voluntary system against the national discipline that fears to say "You must". These are the men that talk; they let off steam like boiling pans, while the war goes on month after month. They are the volunteers who suffer and at last give way, conquered by the general atmosphere and its compulsive criticisms and indignities. One of the characters, who chafes and frets because work at home is the best work that he can do, visits France, and sees there in action a general and regulated patriotism that wastes no time, no energy, that makes no fuss over "heroes" and "heroisms", that finds in a compulsion accepted with pride a spirit to unite the civil population with the fighting lines.

Perhaps the most firmly drawn character in the book is that of Mr. Smith, the employer of blood and iron, a relic of other times, who retires from business rather than yield to a strike approved by the Government. He and his children are very important, and there is sure to be much discussion over the sudden revolt, with its consequences, of Agnes Smith. "The King's Men" comes from a varied war within the war: it is a novel to be read with care.

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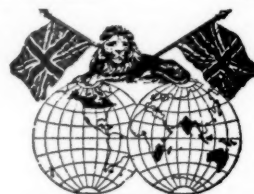
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who has recently returned from the Russian Front, will preside, supported by a number of Bishops and other Clergy, and Laity.

WAR EXPERIENCES will be related by Church Army Workers.**ORGAN RECITAL at 2.30 p.m., by ELAINE RAINBOW.**

A FEW RESERVED SEATS will be available, IMMEDIATE APPLICATION for which should be made to Prebendary Carlile, D.D., Hon. Chief Secretary, Headquarters, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, London, W., who will also most gratefully receive GIFTS for announcement at the Meeting (by initial only if so desired), for the Society's extensive and beneficent work on behalf of the brave men of H.M. Services. Cheques should be crossed "Barclays, a/c Church Army."

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The Mayor of Westminster (Sir GEORGE WELBY) and Council of the City of Westminster will be officially present.

Admission: Opening Day, 2/6; all other Days and Evenings, 1/.

MALACCA PLANTATIONS.

THE ordinary general meeting of the Malacca Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, Mr. George B. Dodwell, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said: You will have noticed that our colonial expenses for 1915 were £174,524 16s. 1d., as against £180,760 16s. 1d. for the previous year, and, as our output for the year was 3,543,112 lbs., compared with 3,382,147 lbs. in 1914, you get an increase of 160,965 lbs. of rubber, with a decrease in cost of £6,236, which, especially in view of the difficulties, to which I will refer later, with which the management in Malacca has had to contend must be regarded as very encouraging. The f.o.b. cost of our rubber has come down to 11'82d. per lb., a reduction of just 1d. on the 1914 figures, and the all-in cost is down 70d. per lb., in spite of the extra cost of freight, insurance and other charges consequent on the war. Last year I had to point out that, although we secured a large increase in our production, we did not realise so much for our crop as in 1913. For the year under review we are in the happy position of recording both an increase in crop and an increase in price, with the highly satisfactory results disclosed by the accounts. Turning to the balance-sheet, you find that our capital expenditure comes down from £35,700 1s. 1d. in 1914 to £8,725 8s. 2d., and I really think that if I were asked to take a purely impersonal view of our figures and to place my finger on the most satisfactory item before you, I should select this one. It indicates that our capital expenditure is now, when contrasted with the amount of our revenue expenditure, an almost negligible quantity. During the year further purchases of debentures were made and the mortgage liability reduced to £258,370. The sum of £19,080 will be available from the 1915 profits for the further reduction of this liability and will bring our debenture indebtedness to less than one-half of the original issue. Our old shareholders will be glad to be reminded that our company started with a capital of £300,000 with less than 4,000 acres of rubber. Our present paid up capital is £353,964, and debentures amount, as already stated, to £258,370, and the planted area approximates 16,000 acres. It, therefore, follows that when in the course of time the debenture debt has been paid off the company, with an increase in capital of only £53,964, will have increased its cultivated area by no less than 12,000 acres. I regret to say that the question of labour is causing us considerable anxiety. Thinning out has been proceeded with during the year so far as labour has been available, and this is being continued. Alternate day tapping has been commenced upon two more estates, and we have now four estates under this method. We should have preferred to watch the results on the two estates which were originally placed under this system for some time longer before experimenting further, but the saving of labour is so important an element just now that the change of method was held to be desirable. As to output, you will observe that we are a little short of our estimate for 1915, which is entirely attributable to the labour difficulty. It will also be within your knowledge that the crop for the first three months of the present year is 702,700 lbs., as against 854,700 lbs. for the corresponding period of last year. The drop, 152,000 lbs., is mainly a matter of climatic conditions, as we have had the worst drought on record in Malacca recently, and returns from this district are, speaking generally, considerably down. Recent advices inform us that rain has recommenced, and it is to be hoped that the effects of the drought will soon pass away. In view of the shortage for the first quarter and the uncertainty of the labour position, the Board do not care to commit themselves to an increased estimate for the current year, but hope that 3,500,000 lbs., as estimated in the report, will be obtained. While I am on the question of crop I wish to tell you that during the course of last year we made forward contracts for approximately one-fourth of our 1916 crop f.o.b. Singapore at prices which are equivalent to about 2s. 3½d. London. These sales were made in 1915 before the rise in the market took place, and if present prices should continue we shall, of course, be the losers to that extent; but I do not feel inclined to tender an apology, because I submit to you that looking at the generally disturbed condition of affairs and the uncertainty of the future, prudence dictated that we should make the 1916 position reasonably secure if we could, and, after all, the contracts show us a very sound level of profit, and we have still a large amount of rubber upon which we can take advantage of current prices during the year.

Mr. Charles Emerson seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and a final dividend of 30 per cent., free of income tax, declared for the year 1915 on all ordinary and preference shares, and to holders of No. 10 coupon on bearer warrants.

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LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK.

THE Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the London and Brazilian Bank, Ltd., was held on Thursday, Mr. John Beaton, the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman said: The figures appearing in the balance-sheet do not differ materially from those of the one last year, except in the total of the bills for collection, which at £2,638,000 is less by £836,000, and is accountable for the shrinkage of £667,000 in the summation of the balance-sheet. This further reduction in the bills for collection means that there was no recovery last year in the Brazilian and Argentine import trade, partly owing, doubtless, to the war, but also, I opine, to the lingering effect of the disastrous financial and commercial crisis of the years 1913 and 1914. The current accounts are £121,000 more, and the bills payable £102,000 more. On the other side the bills receivable are £66,000 more; also the cash and remittances in transit £299,000, the discounts and loans, etc., being £279,000 less. The cash balance is more by £65,000, having the large total of £5,498,000. In the profit and loss account the gross profit amounts to £499,000, being £27,000 less than last year in consequence of a further heavy provision having had to be made on account of the numerous doubtful debts to which I referred at the last meeting and which we then hoped had been fully provided for. It is, however, difficult to estimate their real value, for they are so liable to be adversely affected by subsequent disclosures or unfortunate liquidation. The charges, at £260,676, are smaller by £16,000 owing to a lower Brazilian exchange. They include a war bonus of £5,500 to the married members of our staff and £1,320 contributions to the Red Cross and other patriotic funds. After providing for taxes at home and abroad there is an available balance of £497,871.

Last October we paid an interim dividend amounting to £87,500, being at the increased rate of 14 per cent. per annum instead of 12 per cent. in order to make up for the dividend being subject to income-tax instead of free of that tax as hitherto. We now recommend a like payment, making the dividend for the year 14 per cent. We also recommend the payment of a bonus of 4s. per share, thus making a total distribution of 16 per cent. These payments will absorb £200,000, leaving a balance of £297,871 to carry forward. Now, for the first time since the year 1900 we have had to announce in our report a depreciation in the value of our capital in South America. It amounts to £36,803, and is covered by the balance carried forward, £297,000. The depreciation is the result of a fall in the Brazilian exchange to 11½d., the cause of which it is difficult to understand in face of the balance of trade having been in favour of Brazil during the last two years to the extent of £34,000,000 sterling. I referred last year to Brazilian finance at some length, and I will now only remark that the fall in the exchange has been attributed solely to the large additions made to the inconvertible paper currency during the years 1914-1915. They were certainly very large, amounting, I believe, to over 60 per cent. The same effect, however, would have been produced on the rate of exchange by a continued demand for sterling remittances in excess of what was offering. Leaving this controversial question, I am very glad to inform you that cattle-rearing and the establishment of meat factories in Brazil have caught on and are doing an increasing business. This is a source of wealth hitherto neglected, and which can be developed to a very large extent and will be a welcome addition to the other valuable products of the country. As regards Argentina, the demand for its produce continues, and at high prices. It is, of course, like Brazil, suffering from the prevailing scarcity of shipping and the abnormal cost of freight. The maize crop will, unfortunately, be somewhat of a disappointment, locusts and drought having diminished the estimated crop. There is no doubt, however, that a recovery of prosperity continues to show itself, and I am quite sure that all the banks there will acclaim its consummation. Our bank has always managed to hold its own, notwithstanding keen competition, and I quite believe that it will continue to do so.

Mr. W. Douro Hoare seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

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